



## THE STEEPLE NEWS

*"Knowing Jesus, we love and care for all, through the power of Christ."*

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

MARCH 2010

### **Glimpses of Resurrection Even in the Midst of Lent**

We are people of the cross, but also of the resurrection. Although I am trying to enter fully into this Lenten season, I cannot help but see glimpses of the resurrection in our midst. Perhaps this is why the liturgical calendar permits us to celebrate the resurrection, even during lent. Did you ever count the "forty" days of Lent? There are actually forty-five, because Sundays, which mark the day Christ rose from the dead, are exempt!

This Lent I caught a glimpse of the resurrection when two women spent a morning cooking in our new kitchen. They made healthy casseroles, for me to bring to our shut-ins when I visit, or to someone who just lost a loved one, or to a person just released from the hospital. What a life-giving new ministry budding here in this place!

I see glimpses of the resurrection every time we gather in our new fellowship hall for coffee, fellowship, and our Lenten soup and bread suppers. Our first supper was so crowded that we ran out of soup! But it is an early blossoming of many meals, of many celebrations to come. In fact our new kitchen will be "officially" dedicated during our worship service on Saturday, March 27, with a "Thank You" celebration dinner immediately following worship, using our new kitchen and fellowship hall! At this dinner we will thank our two generous donors who made this new kitchen possible: Bill and Dottie Riessen, and the family of Karl and Dottie Hendrickson. We will also attempt to thank all those who gave of their time, talent, and treasure, both from our church family, and from the wider community, without whom we would not have our amazing new kitchen! Come and join us for this celebration! It will certainly be a glimpse of the resurrection, even in the midst of Lent.

The other night I attended a surprise birthday party for a member of our congregation. The party was hosted by her husband and twelve-year-old daughter. To see the look on her face, as she walked in the door, and saw friends from near...and from far...gathered to celebrate the gift of her life! To see the looks of love on the faces of her husband and her daughter as they saw the look on her face! Then to see the way music brought us all together as one. First we all gathered as her daughter, in her clear, sweet young voice sang a song for her mother. Then, our different "groups" coalesced into one. There was a group of folks from church. There was a group of friends from her neighborhood, a group of friends from her work, and a group of friends from long ago. When the music began, we gathered around the piano, and our own Philip Martorella led us in singing Beatles' and other familiar songs. People who had known each other, people who had just met, all of us gathered together, singing our hearts out! Music and the celebration of life uniting us! And laughter! What a glimpse of resurrection!

All I could think of was that we need to do this MORE. We need to gather together more. We need to break bread together, to share meals together, to sing and celebrate together MORE.

For isn't the Lenten journey really just symbolic of our life journey? The daily struggles, the dry desert times, the temptations of the wilderness, the daily disciplines of faith to get us through? But, sisters and brothers, as Christians, we are people of the cross AND the resurrection. Our Lutheran theology always holds these two together. So...even in the desert, we gather at oases. Even in Lent, we celebrate the resurrection, which open eyes, hearts, minds, and souls, can always glimpse in our midst!

In Christ, our Resurrection and our Life,

Pastor Linda

## **CHURCH DIRECTORY**

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Saturday- 5 pm Contemporary

Sunday – 8 am Spoken Word

Sunday – 10 am Traditional

**All services with Holy Communion**

### **SERVING**

Pastor: Rev. Linda R. Forsberg

Assistant to Pastor: Patti Reslow

Secretary: Rose Miceli

Minister of Music: Philip Martorella

Choir Director: Brad Logan

Visitation to Shut-Ins: Rev. Martha Smith

SS Superintendents: Denise Slade/Sherri Poulos

Web Designer: Dan Kellerman

### **CHURCH COUNCIL ( ) INDICATES LIAISON**

Church officers:

President: Leif Reslow

Vice president: Doug Riggs (Property)

Secretary:

Members at large:

Josh Hendrickson

Valerie Fisher

Donna Horan (Music and Worship)

Nicole Ericson (Personnel)

Denise Slade (Christian Education)

Audra Willis (Fellowship)

Laura Carlson (Kitchen Renovations)

Joe Rochira (Finance)

Matt Dolan

David Kulm

Appointed by Council

Treasurer: Paul Swanson

Assistant Treasurer: Joe Rochira

Financial Secretary: Nicole Ericson

Recording Financial Secretary: Patti Reslow

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Sally Bennett, Chairperson

Nicole Ericson, Co-Chairperson, Council Liaison

Russell Johnson

Lou Sansone

Charlene Henderson

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School begins at 9 am. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 4.

The Sunday School staff for this year is as follows:

Pre-K: Sue Parkins, Diane Benson

K-2: Lexi Riggs, Beth and Bob Hamilton, Theresa Sadowski

3-4: Claire Dolan, Sherri Poulos

5-6: Karen Johnson, Maura McKone

Youth Bible Study: Michelle Johnson

Substitutes: Rose Miceli, Karen Mariano

Thank you to all for sharing your time and talent in this ministry.

### **PASTOR'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Please join us! The group meets every Wednesday morning at 10:30 am in the church library.

### **MEN'S GROUP MEETING**

The Saturday Morning Men's Group will now meet every second and fourth Saturday of the month at 8:30 am in the church library. Please bring your breakfast to allow more time for fellowship. All men are welcome!

### **SOS (SISTERS OF SPIRIT)**

Sisters of Spirit will meet on Thursday, March 4 at 7 pm at the home of Donna Horan 24 Sleepy Hollow Rd, EG 401.885.1474. Please bring a friend and a dish to share. All women are welcome!

### **SIS (SISTERS IN SERVICE)**

Sisters in Service will meet on Friday, March 12 at Noon in Fellowship Hall. Come bring a lunch and coffee/dessert will be provided. This group is for women of ALL ages.

### **ADULT FORUM**

New on Sunday mornings after our 8 am Worship service Pastor Linda will be leading a forum for adults using the Lutheran Book of Faith Initiative. Grab a coffee and come join us.

### **PRE-CONFIRMATION/CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Pre Confirmation classes are for those youth entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The class meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 4 pm in the church Sanctuary. For the month of March classes are Wednesday the 3 and 17.

Confirmation classes are for those youth entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade thru 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The class meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the church Sanctuary. For the month of March classes are Wednesday the 3 and 17. **Confirmation youth must attend three Holy Week services. Please see below the upcoming schedule for Holy Week.**

## **LENTEN SCHEDULE**

March 3, 10, 17 and 24 a simple meal beginning at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Lenten Worship will follow at 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary. If you would like to provide a soup or bread for our supper please call the church office 884-5572 for the schedule. Thank you.

## **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, March 28 Palm Sunday** – 8 am & 10 am Worship times

**Thursday, April 1 Maundy Thursday** – 5 pm Seder Meal (watch your bulletins for ticket sale information) – followed by 7:30 pm Worship

**Friday, April 2 Good Friday** – Noon Worship at FELC followed by The Stations of the Cross Walk; 7 pm Taize Worship at St. Luke's

**Saturday, April 3 Easter Vigil** – 5 pm Worship

**Sunday, April 4 Easter/Resurrection of Our Lord** – 6 am Ecumenical Sunrise Service @ Sandy Point Beach; followed by a light breakfast at the home of Joe Rochira 44 Sawyer Ave. Warwick, 02818

## **Welcome Back, Susan Letendre, Sustainable Living Coach, March 14 & March 28**

In January we were blessed to have Susan Letendre, Sustainable Living Coach, as a guest speaker at all three worship services, as well as at our Sunday morning adult forum, and youth homeless awareness campout. In February, Susan has been away, working with farmers in Mexico and Guatemala. In March, she returns to First Lutheran, to share the news from her travels, and also to help us develop a sustainable living plan for ourselves individually, as well as for ourselves as a community of faith here at First Lutheran Church. Susan will be leading two adult forums, on Sunday March 14, and on Sunday, March 28, which are conveniently scheduled at 9:00 am, in between our 8:00 am and 10:00 am worship services, so that people from both services may attend. See you there!

## **Special Congregational Meeting: Sunday, March 28, 2010**

We will have a special meeting of the congregation and potluck brunch on Sunday, March 28, after our 10 am worship service. We had originally planned to have this after our Thank You dinner on March 27, but the Council felt that it would be too much to have both together, plus, on March 27, we will be having many guests from our community. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on a newly updated Permanent Ministry Fund policy, and also on a new Oceans of Grace Fund policy, both of which have been unanimously approved by the church council. A second purpose for this meeting is to vote on the percentage of our total investments which will be allocated to each fund. In addition, we will have a draft Oceans of Grace business plan, as well as draft job descriptions for both a youth director and an Oceans of Grace program director available. All church members are invited to participate in these important decisions. Those who are not members may attend, but only church members have voice and vote.

## **Traditional Passover Meal**

We are planning a Seder Meal to be held on Maundy Thursday, April 1 from 5 - 7 PM. This year you may choose either chicken or lamb for your dinner. Tickets may be purchased from Patti Reslow or Donna Horan and will be available during weekend services and on Wednesday evenings. Please specify your preferences when purchasing your tickets. Tickets are \$10.00 for ages 13 and up (children under 13 are free).

## **Book Fair to Benefit Children's Garden**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Garden Fundraiser sponsored by Usborne Books will be held during services on Sunday, March 14 and all services the weekend of March 20. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to purchase/order books during the Soup and Bread Supper on Wednesday, March 24. A portion of the proceeds will be used to buy plants for FELC's Children's Garden. See church website for a link to allow online purchases [www.firstlutheraneg.org](http://www.firstlutheraneg.org) or you can contact Christine Kellerman at 738.4353.

## **Annual Feinstein Million Dollar Giveaway to Fight Hunger**

First Lutheran is participating in this matching funds program to benefit Christ's Cupboard (please see Feinstein letter attached to Steeple). This program runs from March 1 to April 30. All donations of food or monetary will be matched dollar for dollar/pound for pound up to one million dollars nationwide, minimum \$250 to maximum \$40,000 to any agency. Please feel free to distribute this letter to your organization for donations to FELC's Christ Cupboard. Please be sure to clearly indicate that your cash/check donation is to Christ's Cupboard. For further info you can go to [www.feinsteinfoundation.org](http://www.feinsteinfoundation.org).

## **Last Call for Ghost Ranch Retreat: "Wholly Holy: Loving God with our Whole Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength!"**

If you are planning on attending the retreat Pastor Linda is leading at breathtaking Casa del Sol, Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico, April 19-25, you need to register ASAP. Go to the homepage for our First Lutheran website, [www.firstlutheraneg.org](http://www.firstlutheraneg.org), and click on Ghost Ranch Retreat, or go to Ghost Ranch's website, [www.ghostranch.org](http://www.ghostranch.org), and click on Casa del Sol retreats, and find the retreat by my name, Linda Forsberg. This will be an experience you will not want to miss!

## **Interested in Joining our Church Family?** **New Members Sunday, May 2, 2010**

We will have two New Members Orientations, one on Sunday, March 21, at 9:00 AM, in between our two worship services, during our adult forum time, and one on Saturday, April 10, at 6:00 PM, after our 5:00 PM worship service, with a pot luck supper. Both of these orientations are for anyone interested in joining our church family, as well as for those who are already members. Come, join us. New Members Sunday will be by May 2, with a special coffee hour in celebration of our new members.

**Dedication of our New Nursery, Sunday, May 9, 2010,**  
**in Loving Memory of Helen M. Forsberg**

Some of our young mothers here at First Lutheran are working to create a new nursery/children's corner. A feature will be an original painting of Jesus with the children, "Let the Little Children Come Unto Me," done by Victoria Forsberg-Lary. My mother adored children, and doted especially on little ones. Her birthday was May 12, so it always fell around Mother's Day. This Mother's Day we hope to have our new nursery/children's corner dedicated to the glory of God, in her memory. She would be most pleased.

**First Communion Classes/ First Communion Sunday:**  
**May 16, 2010**

Is your child desiring to receive the sacrament of holy communion? Then she or he is ready to receive instruction. We will have four classes, on Thursdays, from 4- 5 PM: April 8, April 15, May 6, and May 13. First Communion Sunday will be May 16. Please call the church office, or add your child's name to our sign-up list, so that we can know how many children we need to prepare for.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Mark your calendars! BAOBAB BLAST is coming to First Lutheran and you don't want to miss it! The dates are June 28-July 2, 9:00am-12:00noon. The children will also be participating in a presentation at the church service on Sunday, July 11. VBS is open to children in pre-k (age 4) to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The cost is \$15 per child with scholarships available from Pastor Linda if needed. We will be registering kids beginning in May. We will once again be in need of those all-important volunteers, so if you feel called to serve in ANY capacity, let us know. You can contact Carla Priebe at 885-9202 or the church directly. More important information will follow. Hope to see you all under the BAOBAB tree!

**YOUTH NEWS**

Laura Kulm is now officially the new youth minister intern, taking over for Michelle Johnson. If you have any questions regarding the Youth Group or upcoming activities please contact Laura at flyouthgroup@gmail.com

**The schedule for Wednesday, March 3rd:**

-3:00 Pm – Student/Youth Drop-in  
-4:00 – 5:00 Pm - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Confirmation Students with Pastor Linda  
-5:00 – 6:15 Pm – Dinner  
-7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class – Regular class time. Please remember to bring your book  
The Shack.

**The schedule for Wednesday, March 17:**

-3:00 Pm – Student/Youth Drop-in  
-4:00 – 5:00 Pm - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Confirmation Students with Pastor Linda  
-5:00 – 6:15 Pm – Dinner  
-7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class – Regular class time. Please remember to bring your book  
The Shack.

The weekend of March 13 & 14 is Youth Worship weekend more to follow at our Youth Breakfast on March 7; a movie night is planned for Friday, March 20.

**Confirmation youth must attend three Holy Week services.**



***Alan Shawn Feinstein***  
*37 Alhambra Circle Cranston, RI*  
*02905*

**Please use MY money to help your neighbors in need!**

My name is Alan Shawn Feinstein. For the past 12 years, I have been giving away \$1 million each year to anti-hunger agencies throughout the country. This year, I am doing it again...

**WHATEVER YOU DONATE TO THIS AGENCY, I WILL ADD MONEY TO IT. THE MORE YOU GIVE, THE MORE OF MY \$1 MILLION THEY' LL GE T — THANKS TO YOU!**

**Why am I doing this? Because I believe each of us was put here on earth to do what we can to help those in need. You got this letter because we feel that YOU believe that, too.**

This has become the greatest grass roots campaign ever to fight hunger in our country. Your donation makes you a partner in it with me! My money started this campaign but it is **YOU** who will help decide how many needy people in your city or town will be fed this year. *All that will matter to us someday is what we did while we were here to help those who needed us.* We Are Needed Now!

**Please give whatever you can - I will gladly add some of my money to yours.** (My \$1 million will be divided in full proportionately among the agencies receiving donations toward my offer.)

Thank you for sharing my heart, and the hope that— someday— no one will ever go hungry.

Sincerely Yours,  
Alan Shawn Feinstein

*Alan Shawn Feinstein*



**Jason Norton**(nephew of Alicia Seavey; home from Iraq; bone cancer, in remission-thanks be to God!)

**Sandra**(mother of 3 young children for healing and strength)

**Isabelle Wohlrab**(one year old diagnosed with cancer, undergoing surgery, recently underwent chemo and will continue chemo/radiation after surgery)

**Beatrice Faiola**(friend of Philip Martorella, for healing strength)

**Ruth Diko**(sister of Kathy Perkins, aunt of Kelly Powers recently diagnosed with liver cancer; please pray for peace and strength)

**Kathy Perkins**(recovering at home after surgery; 190 Massachusetts Ave., Warwick, RI 02888)

**Christopher Yates**(friend of the Andreozzi family – 25 years old, suffered head trauma in a skiing accident)

**Frank Wolf**(cousin of Gus Pagel – battling cancer)

**Martha Smith**(home; pray for healing; 75 Reed St. Warwick, RI 02886)

**Clint Redstone**(congestive heart failure; pray for strength)

**Sarah**(breast cancer; pray for strength)

**Lorraine**(neck surgery; pray for healing)

**Pat & Dave Ursillo**(on the recent death of Pat's mother Wanda Deignan; 720 Putnam Pike Apt. 601 Greenville, RI 02828)

**Carol Cotrone**(friend of Beth Fielding for healing of broken bones)

**Bob, Kelly, Shawn, Derrick & Kylie Powers**(on the death of Bob's mother on December 11; Bob & Kelly's address – 44 Law St. Warwick, RI 02888, Bob's father, Robert Powers Sr.; 79 Pettigrew Dr. Warwick, RI 02886)

**Tom Marcello**(friend of Tom & Janet Joyce, for healing and strength)

**Sally Guerry**(friend of Martha Smith, battling breast cancer, please pray for strength)

**Don (Skip) Gibson**(father of Don Gibson intestinal problems and back problems)  
**Hugo**(friend and work colleague of Leif Reslow, doing better, thanks for prayer)  
**Al Stone**(recuperating from lung transplant surgery)  
**Lisa Wesson**(surgery and treatment for breast cancer; please pray for healing and strength)  
**Loved Ones of 12 year old Victoria**(niece of Laura Carlson and cousin of Meg, Patrick and Ted, who died of swine flu)  
**Robyn Vespia & the 115<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company& the 118<sup>th</sup> Military Battalion**(deployed for the next year to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to provide security for detainee operations)  
**Ernie Anderson**(surgery on both legs, doing better; 33 Long Street EG RI 02818)  
**Samantha**(age 3 recently diagnosed with juvenile diabetes)  
**Megan**(19 year old with thyroid cancer)  
**Jean Martorella**(Philip's mom, for strength)  
**Timothy Miller**(for strength)  
**Elizabeth Deschane**(recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease)  
**Nancy Primeau**(friend of Denise Slade whose mother has been diagnosed with breast cancer)  
**Debbie McCormick**(former church secretary; for chemo treatment)  
**Lisa**(surgery next week for a tumor of the pituitary gland)  
**Fatima**(friend of Sherri Poulos whose daughter was the victim found in a recent house fire, please pray for God's strength and guidance)  
**Cheryl**(for strength)  
**Nicholas**(2 years old diagnosed with stage four cancer)  
**Tricia Sacha and her Mom and Dad**(for strength, dad recovering from quadruple bypass and aortic repair and mom, Betty and also for Brad & Tricia's daughter, Nicole, on student internship in Africa)  
**Hayes Foster**(brother of Parkie Sloat; medical disability)  
**Jim**(battling cancer)  
**Jean McPherson**(mother of Nancy Schwab)  
**John Pease**(57 year old brother of Patti Otrando recently suffered a stroke)  
**MaryKay Gustafson**(very close friend of Patti Otrando struggling with pancreatitis)  
**Eugene Greenwood**(father of Charlene Henderson recovering at home)  
**Alice McDonald**(undergoing surgery for skin cancer; please keep in your prayers)  
**Kelly Powers**(suffers from MS and fibromyalgia; please pray for strength)  
**Stephanie**(friend of Patti Otrando, significant health issues dealing with severe diabetes)  
**Margaret**(mother of five small children)  
**David Sansone Jr.**(continued prayers for strength)  
**Haley DeBerardis**(21 year old in a coma as a result of a drunk driver, friend of the Devine family)  
**Paul W.**(friend of the Navilliat family; 42 year old father of two young sons; aggressive lung cancer)  
**Lynn S.**(cancer returned, prayers for remission)  
**Joshua Nunes**(grandson of Gus & Mary Pagel, for strength, struggling with MS)  
**Mary Rosenthal**(struggling with cancer, not responding to treatment)  
**Barbara Jean**(friend of Laura Carlson, mother of two young children for strength and restoration to good health)  
**John Montanaro**(17 years old has acute lymphoblast leukemia has to undergo treatment for 3 – 4 years)  
**Frank Cassidy**(suffering from lung cancer, pray for remission and comfort to his family)  
**Mary Jane Heinz**(ovarian cancer)  
**Vicki Kleinbord**(friend of Ann McQueeney; has colon/liver cancer)  
**Robin Mason**(leukemia, mother of 3 small children)  
**Pamela Holmes-Delamorte**(leukemia)  
**Our pastors, council president, church staff, church officers & leaders. Our nation & our leaders and all those serving in the armed forces. Our children & grandchildren. Our confirmation youth & mentors. Our Bishop, Rev. Margaret Payne & ELCA Bishop, Rev. Mark Hanson**  
**OUR SENIOR AND SHUT-IN MEMBERS: PLEASE SEND CARDS OF CHEER OR TAKE TIME TO VISIT**  
**Margaret Widyn**(959 Tillinghast Rd. EG RI 02818)  
**Myrtice Price**(13 Eldredge Ave. E. G. R. I. 02818)  
**Ursula Mouradjian & Tony DeFraia**(35 Elberta Street, Warwick RI 02889)  
**Doris Farren**(Scalabrini Villa)  
**Mildred McCord**(aunt of Nancy Swanson; 21 Quinlan Ct. Warwick, RI 02886)

