MARIN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Bridge Newsletter

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

March 2020

Wherever Kathryn and I travel to we always check out the local churches. In Guatemala a couple weeks ago, we visited a number of parishes in Quetzaltenango, Santiago Atitlan, and Antigua. Most were churches where people were coming in to pray and mass was still celebrated regularly. Others seemed to be historic buildings in various states of ruin—wiped out by this or that earthquake over the centuries. All were fascinating.

In each of the active churches there was a side-chapel with a black crucifix. Curious about it, Kathryn and I asked some questions.

Most, if not all of the Roman Catholic churches in Guatemala have a replica of El Señor Crucificado de Esquipulas (the Crucified Lord of Esquipulas). This crucifix was delivered to the parish in Esquipulas in 1595. What began as a light-skinned Jesus slowly transformed into a blackened figure by the eighteenth century. The image of Christ of Esquipulas represents more than just a remarkable hue. It has become a symbol of Guatemalan and Central American ethnic diversity. In troubled times, the faithful have sought healing and comfort at this sanctuary. (This history is from, ***The Black Christ of Esquipulas: Religion and Identity in Guatemala*** by Douglass Sullivan-Gonzalez)

This month we enter fully into the Season of Lent. This is a time to prepare for the celebration at Easter by focusing on the life, death and resurrection of our Lord. Strive to make room in your week for self-reflection, prayer and works of love. Allow God's Spirit of comfort and healing to invade your life. Amen.

Pastor Tom

Lent, Holy Week & Easter Worship

March 1, Sunday: Worship at 9:30am
Members of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Tiburon join us for worship
Jesus' temptation in the desert

March 4, Wednesday: Lenten Evening Worship at **6:30pm**
Using the beautiful *Holden Evening Prayer Service,* we gather for 30 minutes
Homilies are shared using the devotional, *Wondrous Love*

March 8, Sunday: Worship at 9:30am
God promises us new life through baptism

March 11, Wednesday: Lenten Evening Worship at **6:30pm**

March 15, Sunday: Worship at 9:30am
Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well – an image of our thirst for God

March 18, Wednesday: Lenten Evening Worship at **6:30pm**

March 22, Sunday: Worship at 9:30am
We hear the story of the man born blind and healed by Jesus

March 25, Wednesday: Lenten Evening Worship at **6:30pm**

March 29, Sunday: Worship at 9:30am at Marin Lutheran
Worship at 11:00am at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran
Jesus reveals his power by raising Lazarus from the dead

March 29, Sunday: Taizé gathering at **6:00pm**

April 1, Wednesday: Lenten Evening Worship at **6:30pm**

April 5, Sunday: Worship at 9:30am
Palm/Passion Sunday. Our service begins outside
and we process into the sanctuary carrying palm branches
Members of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Tiburon join us for worship

April 9, Thursday at 7:00pm
Maundy Thursday worship service at Shepherd of the Hills
April 10, Friday at 8:00pm
Good Friday Tenebrae service at Marin Lutheran with SHLC

April 12, Easter Sunday: Festive worship services at **8:00am & 9:30am**
Easter breakfast is served after each service
Egg Hunt for the children follows the 9:30am service

Marin Lutheran Church Women

Bible Study: We welcome Pastor Tom as our guest leader this month
Join us, Thursday, March 5th at 10:00am in the church narthex

We're studying the series, *We Are Called* by Kathryn Kleinhans. In this third session, ***Called to Serve,*** we will discuss what we are being called to do. In particular, we will see how God's call is a call to serve others, and how the call to love God is linked to the call to love our neighbors. We will examine Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan as an example of the call to respond to individual need. We will look at Joseph's stewardship in Egypt as an example of the call to respond to community needs. Finally we'll revisit the story of Esther as an example of the call to respond to political need.

Serve and Share: Thursday, March 19th from 10am-12noon
Join us to continue to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. No experience required, only a willingness to serve and respond to worldwide need. There's always time to socialize!

Questions? Speak with me during coffee hour.

Jane McKenzie

Worship & Music

Passing the Peace

The season of Lent is one of reflection and preparation before the celebration of Easter. One way we can do this is to reflect on the meaning of passing of the peace. It is a blessing we bestow on others, a hope that one will have peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility.

During Lent, we will be moving the passing of the peace to the end of the service, followed by the Benediction. In moving the peace time, we hope that you will reflect on what it means to you when you pass the peace.

Ushers Meeting

Sunday, March 8th immediately follow the worship service, we will hold a short meeting for ushers. Because of differing circumstances when we had two services, some usher practices differed to fit the service. We hope now to get the routines consistent from service-to-service. We'll share a few items with you, and if anyone has questions this is the time to field them. Please make the effort to attend. Thank you.

Carol Cunliffe

News & Notes from Social Action

PLTS:
A big **THANK YOU** from Social Action to all who donated food and personal care items to local Berkeley students at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. They greatly appreciate our giving as some are struggling with finances and school debt. Your contributions made a big impact!

Meal Bags:
Bags are available on narthex table for you to take & give to a deserving person. Please pick up bags and keep them in your car for easy dispersal to anyone you come across requesting food assistance or support. Help spread God's love to those in need.

Mill Street Dinner:
The next dinner is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th. Please sign up to help.

Burrito Bake:
Saturday, April 4th, we will have our annual Burrito Bake at the Homeward Bound Family Center kitchen ("Brown House") in San Rafael. Together we will assemble another batch of breakfast burritos. Please sign up to join our amazing assembly-line team. Can we make more than 160 burritos this year? Burritos will be distributed to families who reside at the house as well as residents of Voyager Carmel Center. Look for signups and details to be posted.

Line Shanks

Joint Marin Lutheran & Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

March 2020 Schedule

As we have been doing for two years, the people of Marin Lutheran and Shepherd of the Hills are strengthening our ministry ties by regularly worshipping together, participating in joint educational activities and by hosting special fellowship events. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate!

The MLC—SHLC March Worship and Education schedule is as follows:

- March 1st—**9:30 am Joint Worship *at MLC* with Shepherd of the Hills**
  (There is no 11 am service at SHLC on this day!)
- March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, and April 1st—**6:30 pm to 7 pm—Joint Lenten Mid-week Worship *at MLC* using Holden Evening Prayer**. This season the homilies will be based on the Lenten devotional book, "***Wondrous Love***." Copies of the book can be found in the narthex ($4) or an electronic version can be purchased at Amazon
- March 29th—**11 am—Joint Worship *at Shepherd of the Hills* with MLC**. On this fourth Sunday of March, MLC will have two opportunities to worship—both led by Pastor Tom—at 9:30am at MLC and at 11am at SHLC.

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

1	Mary Creigh Houts
4	Joshua Clark-Hexter
11	Walt Potter
12	Kristian Gable
17	Annemarie Hofling
23	Sadie Mattner
24	Bob Wong
26	Jamie Kelley
	Bob Randig
27	Robert Allen
29	Barbara Allen
30	Susan Morrow
31	Anke Pahmeyer
	Lucie Theobald

Anniversaries

6	Erna & Bob Randig
10	Barbara & Roy Allen
31	Colleen & Kerry Hansen

A note from Maggie Harrington

Maggie's entire note is posted on the board in the narthex. Following are excerpts:

Greetings from South Dakota! Today's February 13, [wake up] temp was -15 degrees.

My thanks to you all for the Godspeed during our worship service. It was overwhelming for me, and I shall remember it always.

I am loving your gift of the daily devotional book by Norwegian theologian, O. Hallesby. And thanks also to the heavy lifting team for getting the furniture to the fire survivors; Joel Stahl for baking his famous monkey bread and to my Bible study sisters for the bountiful coffee hour table on my final Sunday.

I am truly blessed to have been a part of this beloved congregation. Peace and love to all, *Maggie*

Hello and thanks –

Thank you for celebrating my milestone birthday. You made it memorable. It would not have been the same without all the wishes and beautiful cards.

It was great to see all at the special 18th of Feb. lunch. As you can imagine, I was not looking forward to another milestone, however seeing my MLC "sisters" was a surprise, fun, and much appreciated. Well done.

Beautiful day, elegant setting, great tasty food, flowers galore, lovely cards and sweet messages, gifts. You made my year and day full of JOY. Thanks.

With love and appreciation, *Jane*

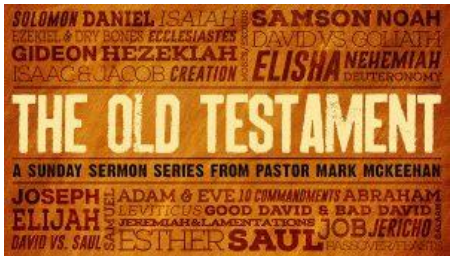
Adult Education on Sunday Mornings

Last month we began another important and very relevant study in the "Dialogue On" series. (Last fall we used another study in the series—"…On Refugees.") This series is "Dialogues on Race." It will continue through Lent and into the Easter Season.

Date	Class Topic	Leader
Sunday, 3/1—11 am to noon	**#1: What Does It Mean to Be White?**	Pastor Tom
Sunday, 3/8–11 am to noon	**#2: Christmas Cookies From Cambodia**	Pastor Tom
Sunday, 3/15–11 am to noon	**#3: Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud**	Pastor Tom
Sunday, 3/22–11 am to noon	**#4: American Amnesia**	Pastor Tom
Sunday, 4/5—11 am to noon	**#5: Whither the Women?**	Pastor Tom
Sunday, 5/10—11 am to noon	**#6: Two Christianities**	Pastor Tom
Sunday, 5/17–11 am to noon	**#7: A New Heaven and A New Earth**	Pastor Tom

Confirmation Ministry

This Winter-Spring we have four students in our class—two third year youth—Rose Dalager and Giorgia Stankus. The two of them will affirm their faith on Confirmation Sunday—May 17th during our worship service. The other students include one second year confirmand—Ryder Field, and one first year student—Robert Bayler. Please keep all these youth in your prayers as they learn and grow in their faith.



This month we continue our study of the Old Testament with classes on three Sundays: March 8th, 22nd and 29th from 5 to 6:15 pm.

For these classes the Fields (8th), Dalagers (22nd), and Toft/Stankus (29th) are scheduled to bring dinners.

To Contact Pastor Tom:

Text or *Call* Pastor Tom on his cell phone at **916-479-3308** or at **415-237-3884**
Call Pastor Tom at the office **415-924-3782**
Email Pastor Tom at **Pastortomgable@gmail.com**

Stewardship

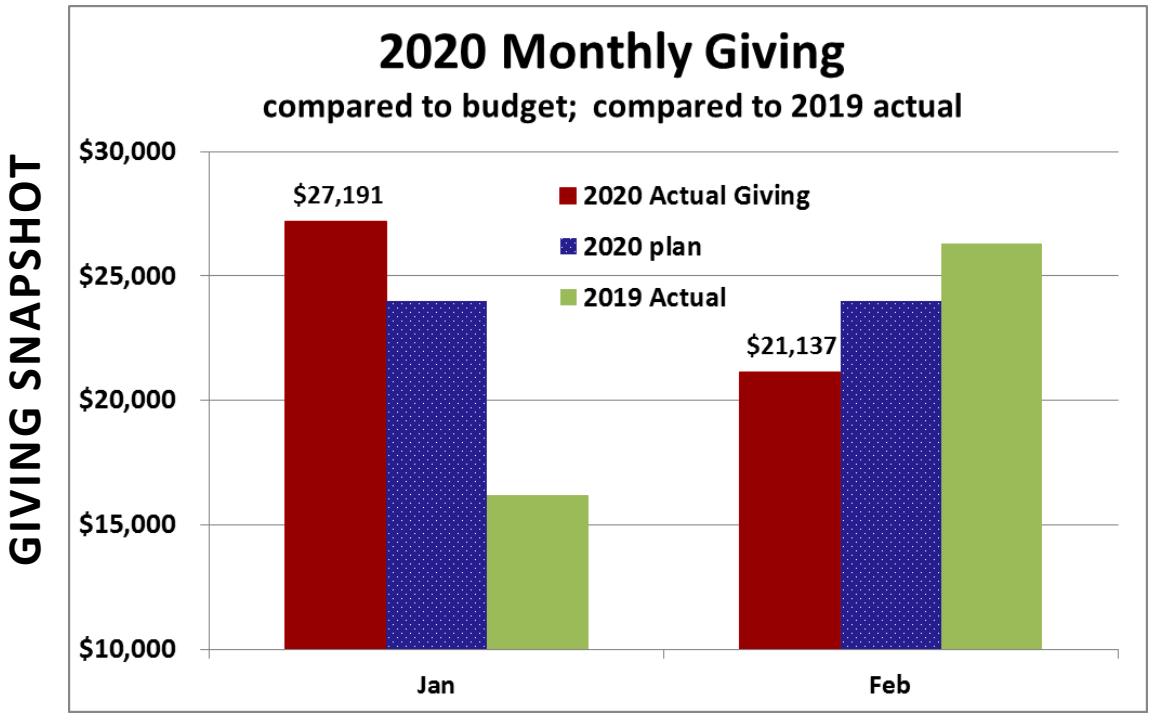
It's 2020! Time for some 20-20 vision for stewardship! We are looking for a few new recruits for the team so if you are interested, let me know.

Last year's theme came to us over a Saturday breakfast so we are trying the same thing this year. It occurred to me that we need to get creative on how we approach stewardship awareness and encourage giving. A potential theme for this year could be "give creatively" .... hmmmmm..,

One activity I proposed at the calendar fest is a **fund raiser at McGinness** in San Rafael with a 9-hole golf tournament including the course there and the mini golf course. I was thinking of having categories of entrants including kids, parent-child and adult. There would also be a category of "after game refreshments and snacks only" for the non-golfers. Right now the date for it is set for **Saturday May 16th.** There are still a lot of details (I'd more accurately say ALL) to work out so if you are interested in helping with the event we are all in! There. Now I'm committed....

Other than that I would say remember your pledges, sign up for auto giving, and keep participating in a thriving Marin Lutheran community.

Thanks and happy new decade. *John Bischoff*

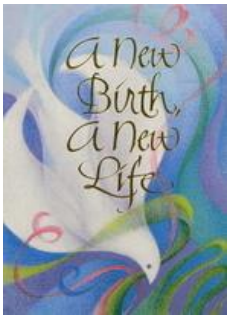


- **Good news:** Following a strong December, giving also exceeded our plan in January of 2020. February's giving slowed down, but combined giving for the first two months is just about exactly at our plan. **Thank you to all of our givers** for your stewardship and generosity.
- **Caveat:** January's positive result can be partly attributed to one member giving most of their annual pledge in January. Without this boost, January would also have fallen short of plan. This happens throughout the year, but reminds us not to take our giving for granted.
- **Going forward:** Please continue support Marin Lutheran as you are able and as God guides you. We hope to remain at or above our giving plan throughout the year.

WORSHIP IN MARCH

March 1

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.



March 8

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

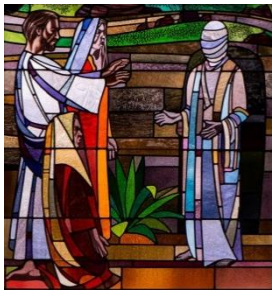
March 15

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

March 22

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

March 29



In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

Taizé Gathering

The last Sunday of each month – March 29th – we gather at 6:00pm for a beautiful contemplative service of music, scripture, prayer, silence and candle light. Come; experience the serenity and beauty of this unique form of worship.

Community Partner Updates:
MOC and MIC are two of our community partners. *Everyone is invited and encouraged to come to the following events*:

Marin Organizing Committee:

MOC is a broad-based, non-partisan and non-profit organization of *churches, synagogues and non-profits located throughout Marin County. MOC's core mission is the building of a power organization through the identification, development and mentorship of leaders from member institutions.*

Upcoming Meeting: Leader's Meeting—Thursday, March 5th from 6:30 to 8:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin (240 Channing Way in San Rafael) This meeting is **open to anyone** wanting to find out more about MOC and organizing. If you have any questions please ask me, Pastor Tom (**pastortomgable@gmail.com** or text at 916-479-3308).

Marin Interfaith Council

Monthly Meditation: Wednesday, March 11th, from 5:30 - 6:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church (1510 Fifth Ave, San Rafael, CA).
Cost: Love offering at the door (suggested $10-$20 for this event). This month our leader is **Sr. Hema Patel**. Sr. Hema Patel, a Teacher of Raja Yoga meditation since 1981, is the coordinator of Anabhuti Meditation and Retreat Center (since 2004). She has also served in Dubai, the United Kingdom and Los Angeles. Sister Hema brings enthusiasm and a desire for all to receive the benefits of a life of spiritual understanding and practice.

Conversation and Community—Sharing Supper Together

Beginning the first week of March.
Location: San Rafael (*the exact day will be determined based on availability*)
Across time, and culture, and spiritual tradition, people have been sitting in circles telling their stories to one another. In those rare chances and moments when the veil between each other lifts, we're able to see each other's truths without being scandalized by it, to witness and be witnessed.

If you are interested in creating community, one voice at a time, and would like to explore a depth of conversation far different from everyday life, then please join us for a "People's Supper." All are welcome who come with an open heart. To join a group, or for more information, contact: Lynn Oldham Robinett at office@marinifc.org

Pastor Tom

VBS

COKESBURY'S VBS

KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE

August 3-7, 2020

Time to mark your calendars!

MARCH 2020 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	March 1st	March 8th	March 15th	March 22nd	March 29th
READINGS	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45
GREETERS					
9:30 AM	Jane McKenzie	Cheri Houts	Barbara Bischoff	MC Houts	Erna Randig
USHER					
9:30 AM	Rich Myhre	Michael Houts	Rick West	Michael Rosendahl	Lorri Reinders
ACOLYTE					
9:30 AM	Sophie Zlatunich	Annabelle Halloran Haakon Lacy		Isaiah & Joshua Clark-Hexter	Mia Lacy Robert Bayler
LECTOR					
9:30 AM	Karen Clinton	John Halloran	Annemarie Hofling	Emily Rosendahl	Jeff Reinders
ALM					
9:30 AM	Yvonne Weidmann	Betsy McCormick	Sharon Guy	Susan Morrow	Kathy Bayler
COMM ASSIST					
9:30 AM	Carol Zlatunich				Erna Randig
SOUND TECH					
9:30 AM	Jeff Reinders	Dan Watrous	John Bischoff	Bart Saling	Dan Wartous
COUNTERS					
9:30 AM	The Reinders	Kamphoefner	Kamphoefner	Kamphoefner	The Reinders
COFFEE HOUR					
9:30 AM	Karen Clinton	Blanche Sprague	Sharon Guy	Anke Pahmeyer	Lorraine Loo
ALTAR GUILD	Erna Randig	Erna Randig	Erna Randig	Bev Kamphoefner	Erna Randig
FLOWERS	Sue Southgate				Bedilions
Child CHURCH	Rich Myhre	Erin Morgan			Katharine Peck

Marin Lutheran Church
649 Meadowsweet Drive
Corte Madera, CA 94925-1631

The Marin Lutheran Bridge
March 2020

Marin Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Pastor	The Rev. Thomas Gable
Church Council President	Ann Marymor
Director of Music	Andrei Gorchov
Principal Accompanist	Laura Magnani
Choir Director Emeritus	Marilyn Davis

Sunday Service time: 9:30 a.m.
649 Meadowsweet Drive, Corte Madera, CA 94925-1631
Phone: (415) 924-3782 Fax: (415) 924-3785
Office Hours: 11:00am to 3:00pm, Monday through Friday
Web site: www.marinlutheran.org