

Mountain Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 995

Groveland, CA 95321-0995

Phone: 962-4064

13000 Down To Earth Ct.

Ralph B. Herman and Ginger DuMars, Pastors

Volume 10, Issue 2

March 2008

From Pastor Ralph

There Is My Speech!

(For Easter)

At a large gathering in the former Soviet Union a man spoke for ninety minutes advocating atheism. Then a young Orthodox priest courteously asked, "May I speak?"

"Yes," replied the lecturer, "but only for five minutes."

"I won't need that much time," answered the young cleric.

He mounted the platform and cried out in a loud, clear voice, "Christ is risen!" The response came back from a thousand voices, "He is risen, indeed!"

Said the young priest to the Soviet officials on the platform, "There is my speech! I need no more time!"

That Christ truly arose from the dead is the foundation stone upon which the faith and life of the Church are built. At least twelve post-resurrection appearances were recorded, some of them to large groups.

This mighty act of God's raising Jesus from the dead was His crowning seal of approval on the life, teaching, work and ministry of His Son.

God has the final word! He is sovereign. The tyrants appear and then pass on.

When we have only "the Good Friday view" of the world situation we are oppressed by feelings of defeat and despair. However, after the death on the Cross, God brought forth His Son from the tomb. This is the sure ground on which we stand.

We must have "the Easter view" of hope and life and abiding joy. When "Christ is risen!" is in our hearts, then we have the assurance of

meaningful life here on earth, and a glorious life with Him in the hereafter.

All through Lent we have been worshipping and making our financial contributions to Mountain Lutheran Church, grateful that she continues to proclaim this Easter message of hope and joy throughout the year.



Church Council Members:

President	Tom Sweeney
Vice President	Stan Bruederle
Secretary	Mary Bruha
Treasurer	Elden Bruha
Financial Secretary	Audrey Fiance
Member at Large	David Wilkinson
	Dorine Smith

Our Volunteer chairpersons for this year are:

Lay Assistants	Tom Carman
Altar Guild	Delores Van Brocklin
Publicity	Dorothy Parker
Craft Faire	Shirley Carman
Prayer Chain	Judy Basey
Newsletter Editor	Mary Bruederle
Refreshments	Judy Basey
Music & Worship	Tom Carman
Property Manager	Bob Wilkinson

Pastor Ginger's Spring News, 2008

As we watched my mother breathing her last earthly breaths on Feb. 28, the significance of her Baptism & the meaning of Easter dominated my thoughts & hopes & prayers! I calmed her & myself & our family gathered in that E.R. by reciting whatever I could of my favorite Psalms & our Lenten Psalms & by remembering the promises of our baptisms. The Lutheran Service for Holy Baptism begins – “In Holy Baptism our Gracious Heavenly Father liberates us from sin & death by joining us to the death & resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ... in the waters & Word of Baptism we are reborn children of God & inheritors of eternal life. By water (& Word) & the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ.” My mother lived her earthly life with Christ – led by the Holy Spirit & with God's people! She warmly welcomed & invited everyone she met to God's Holy Family & to God's Houses of Worship! She continued to grow in faith & hope & love – as well as trying to obey God's will as she discerned it - her whole life long – expressing God's Spirit through her God-given gifts of beautiful music & gracious hospitality. May these themes dominate all of our earthly lives too!

So as we prepare for Easter – I have never been more grateful for the promises of Resurrection & Eternal Life with Jesus Christ! My whole family has just experienced being carried by the faith of our church families! What a blessing & what an experience! It has been like angels carrying us & helping us to do all the tasks that must be done for funeral & burial services & receptions. If we can have such divine experiences on earth – just imagine what glorious experiences God has planned for us in Heaven! My mother's funeral was a grand send off to God's Spiritual & Heavenly Realm & a meaningful worship service – all happening at the same time! I will be eternally grateful to God Almighty for his amazing grace & preparations for us for eternal life and to our dear friends (especially our Mountain Lutheran family) for your love & support, your cards & prayers & presence. THANK YOU for your Tender Loving Care & your many blessings!

So now.... Let us prepare for Holy Week & Easter. First of all – a big **THANK YOU to all the cooks & hosts & hostesses for our Lenten Wed. Eve. Soup Suppers & Eve. Prayer Services.** The soup suppers were all delicious & our fellowship time was delightful! The music – led by Erma Cherry & Tom Carman – was

heavenly! I hope you were blessed & encouraged by the Psalm Meditations & Dissertations, prayers & music & time together, & mostly by God's Special Presence!



Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week on March 16. Come & Worship at 10:00 a.m. & Celebrate Jesus' Triumphal Parade into Jerusalem & the Beginning of his Passionate Preparations for his imminent suffering & death. Remember that this is also the week-end of our **Community Cantata, "God For Us"** presented at Evangelical Free Church, 19172 Ferretti Road. Performances are **Sat., March 15, at 7 p.m. & Sun., March 16, at 3 p.m.** What an inspiring way to begin Holy Week!

For **Maundy Thursday, March 20**, we are invited to a Seder (lamb) Meal & Service at Wildwood Community Chapel, 10348 Fiske Road, in Greeley Hill. (Phone is 878-3610.) Several of us participated last year & found this to be a very meaningful experience. Reservations are necessary & space is limited. I have reserved a place for 10

who said they wanted to attend, & I can ask for more. Let me know immediately if you want to attend.



Good Friday (March 21) Services are at **NOON** at Evangelical Free Church & at **6:30** p.m. at Groveland's 7th Day Adventist Church, 19585 Elder Lane. The music, Scripture readings & prayers – all led by the Holy Spirit – make these very meaningful events.



Our Community **EARLY EASTER (7:00 a.m. on March 23)** Service will be held at Mountain Lutheran Church (inside)! We will not be offering Holy Communion at the Early Easter Service. Do we want to offer light refreshments after this 7 a.m. service? Let me know if you want to help. Our **Festive Easter Celebration – Worship Service** will be at **10:00** a.m. at Mountain Lutheran Church. Refreshments or Breakfast will follow! **Regarding Easter Lilies** – please bring your loans of lilies on Sat., March 22, from 10:00 –

NOON or anytime Sat. if you have a key, or by 6:45 on Easter morning. Thank you!

Bible Studies continue on Thursdays at 1:00 at MLC.

Thank you, Virginia Rayment, for these very informative & inspiring studies!



The next 5th Sunday Gospel Sing is on Sunday Eve., March 30 at Buck Meadows Community Church, 111492 Buck Meadows Road – starting at 6:00. Come a little early for a good seat & closer parking place. Good Food is always available after this time of singing & praying! The next **Christian Women of Groveland's Breakfast Gathering** is on **Sat., April 16 (starting at 9:00 a.m.** – we'll confirm the time) at Evangelical Free Church. This is a pot luck breakfast. Susan Bollman will present a workshop on Spiritual Gifts & our discernment of them. Mark your calendars now for **the Fall Women Retreat at Camp Tuolumne Trails: Sept. 5 – 6, Friday Dinner through Saturday Dinner & Eve.**

Audrey Fiance & I (Pr. Ginger) will be attending **Sierra Pacific's Synod Assembly** on Friday, April 25 thru Sunday April 27, in Oakland. Pray for us & our preparations, & for God's will in electing a new Synod

Bishop & in voting on other issues. Visitors are always welcome so let me know if you'd like to attend for a day or two.

Hopefully, you've seen the **beautiful drawings of possible stained glass windows** for our high window in the narthex. Thank you, Harold Basey, for coordinating this project & the voting process for deciding which one we want first. We hope to add another one soon. We'll celebrate them with our 2nd anniversary in our new church in late July. We are most appreciative to the artists who have submitted their ideas & drawings: David & Christina Wilkinson & Holly Foiles.

THANKS also to Judi Wilkinson for all her work in updating & distributing our new church directories! They look great!

God Bless You & our New Life in Christ – as we Prepare for & Celebrate the Glorious Resurrection of Jesus & God's Amazing Love & Promises for Life Eternal! With Faith & Hope, Love & Deep Gratitude – Pastor Ginger

NOTES FROM SHIRLEY

We will be having a Flea Market, lunch, and bake sale on Saturday, June 7, 2008, at

the church. The time will be announced at a later date. We will need someone to be in charge of purchasing the food, cooking it, and several people to help serve lunch. The baked goods have always been popular with the flea market crowd, so get out your favorite recipes and also volunteer to be in charge of the bake sale. I am sure you all have items around the house, your garage, and storage areas that you have been wanting to get rid of. Remember your trash might be someone else's treasure. Please call Shirley at 962-5647 if you can help or have any questions. If I don't hear from you I will be calling, so why not call and get your name on the list before someone else takes the job you would like to do. Look for further announcements in the bulletin. We will be receiving matching funds from Thrivent for Lutherans.

**THANK YOU TO
 DOROTHY PARKER FOR
 THESE CONTRIBUTIONS
 TO THE NEWSLETTER:**

INSIDE

Outside was dark,
 Inside was filled with the light
 Of his presence.
 Tears of joy were streaming
 Down their faces
 The light was now found.
 The joy and laughter filled me
 He was there going through

A new sensation went from
 my head to my toes
 A warm shiver of comfort.
 For those in the dark
 It is your loss
 Until you believe
 The reason he died
 With your heart
 You will be empty
 No meaning to life
 The rest of the days
 Of this life on earth.

**SOME FACTS ABOUT
 AN EARLY EASTER:**

Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 20). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.

Based on the above, Easter can actually be one day earlier than it is this year, (March 22), but that is pretty rare. Here's the interesting info: This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives! And only the most elderly (95 years old, or older) have ever seen it this early. And none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier! Here are the facts:

1. The next time Easter will be this early (Mar 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 (so if you're 95 or

older, you are the only ones that were around for that!).

2. The next time it will be a day earlier, Mar 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year!

Some very interesting info about Easter. I don't think we have anyone who was around for the last event!! Thank you again, Dorothy.

(Please feel free to email, or give me some of your own messages, jokes, recipes, etc. Editor.)



MOUNTAIN LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 995
Groveland, CA 95321-0995

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Label Here

