Lutheran Church in the Foothills

Living in God's Amazing Grace

COUNCIL CORNER: TO EASTER - AND BEYOND

"Church is the Church only when it exists for others," (**Dieterich Bonhoeffer**)

We look toward Jesus' resurrection at Easter as the central event of our Christian faith! In **Martin Marty's** words, Christ's rising on the third day is God's "vindication" of the earthly ministry of Jesus and confirmation of the "good news" that the Kingdom of God is among us. We strive, as Lutheran Christians, to bring this message of hope to others who are not yet part of our church, or of any "faith community." And this becomes mission of the church.

In updating our call process, the **Call Committee** reports that our Mission Site Profile is now visible online to potential candidates for our next pastor. As a reminder, **Viv Vega** is a SAM (Synodically Authorized Minister) while she is a student earning her TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) certificate, which could then enable LCIF to Call her (in a couple years time). We are hopeful of connecting soon, through the synod, with candidates for interviews.

In other Council business, we have set **May 17, 2026**, following our 10 a.m. service, as the date and time of our next annual congregational meeting. This is the time when we will elect members to serve on church council, to serve as one of our delegates to the Synod assembly, and to review and approve a Budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which will begin July 1st. **Your attendance and input are very important!**

Also, we wish to announce that we will shortly "go live" with a revamped version of the website for Lutheran Church in the Foothills. The new version is available at the same URL, www.lcifoothills.org, but will be re-organized in tabs that contain a Welcome message to outsiders, and more organized information concerning "About Us;" "Our Worship;" "Our Ministries;" "Upcoming Events;" "Giving;" and "Facilities Use." We wish to give huge thanks to our administrative assistant, **Emily**, for seeing this project through. And we are hopeful that the time and care that

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April 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

As one house of Christ's Church, we welcome you home. Here you will find the love of Christ exemplified. Here you will find a community rooted in the Gospel.

VISION STATEMENT

LCIF provides sanctuary, hope and healing to all, without judgment; offers answers to everyday challenges; and grows stronger so that we will be able to reach out more effectively.

LCIF STAFF

Presiding Minister: Viv Vega

Pastoral Care: Tim Singleton

Ministers: All People of LCIF

Music Minister: Mark Anzelon

Music Ministry:
Katherine Frantsen

Administrative Assistant:
Emily DiPetrillo

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE FOOTHILLS

1700 Foothill Blvd.
La Cañada Flintridge

Sunday Service at 10am

Office hours: 9am - 1pm, M-Th
818.790.1951
office@lcifoothills.org
youtube@lcifoothills
lcifoothills.org

WORSHIP SERVERS

Thursday, April 2
Maundy Thursday
Altar Guild: Renee Brandt
Communion Server and Lector: Janice Schettini
TMT: Renee Brandt
Usher/Greeter: Chris Craney

Friday, April 3
Good Friday
TMT: Renee Brandt

Sunday, April 5
Easter Sunday
Altar Guild: GariLynn Hiscott
Communion Servers: Lynn Banfi, Jeff Brandt, Janice Schettini
Fellowship: Easter Brunch
Lector: GariLynn Hiscott
TMT: Renee Brandt
Usher/Greeters: Jim Goris, Roger Schulke

Sunday, April 12
Second Sunday of Easter
Altar Guild: Janet Cassidy
Communion Server: Renee Brandt
Fellowship: Lori Moody
Lector: Linda Spengler
TMT: Jim Goris
Usher/Greeter: David Haxton

Sunday, April 19
Third Sunday of Easter
Altar Guild: Jeff Brandt
Communion Server: Jane McMahon
Fellowship: Janet Cassidy and Sarah Legerton
Lector: Jane McMahon
TMT: Renee Brandt
Usher/Greeter: Joe Johnson

Sunday, April 26
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Altar Guild: Janice Schettini
Communion Server: Gavin Hall
Fellowship: Renee Brandt
Lector: Chris Craney
TMT: GariLynn & Greg Hiscott
Usher/Greeter: Roger Schulke

MARCH 2026 BUDGET BOX SCORE

January Offerings	Offerings thru 1/31/26	Budget Deficit
$10,844	$116,689	January expenses: $20,345 January income: $13,389
Needed monthly: $15,083	Year to Date Budget: $105,583	This month: <$6,956> Year to Date: <$8,465>
<$4,239>	+$11,106	Budgeted Deficit YTD: $22,741 Actual Deficit Difference: +$14,276
February Offerings	**Offerings thru 2/28/26**	**Budget Deficit**
$13,587	$130,276	February expenses: $20,202 February income: $17,449
Needed monthly: $15,083	Year to Date Budget: $120,667	This month: <$2,753> Year to Date: <$13,024>
<$1,496>	+$9,609	Budgeted Deficit YTD: $25,990 Actual Deficit Difference: +$12,996

COUNCIL CORNER

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has been put into describing our church to others, that is, potential visitors and potential new members, will help all of us, as well, in understanding and defining our purpose in this place.

Again, to quote our Lutheran theologian **Martin Marty**, "The mission of the church is to be 'sent out' to *be* and *become* God's presence in the worlds with which its people come into contact." When our attendance appears small on a Sunday morning, or we get somewhat behind in our giving, we are still the church by being "present" in this place in God's world, present, for example, to hear the testimonies of the women from **Hoving Home**, present to help our neighbors in food and clothing donations, present to help rebuild homes and churches in Altadena in their recovery from fires. All our acts of service as well as evangelism show that we are a "Church that exists for others."

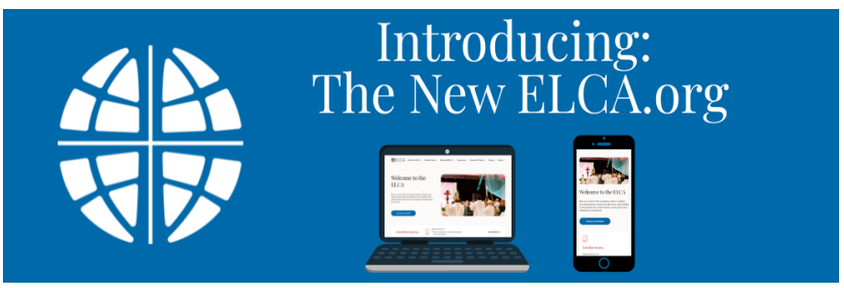
Wishing you a Blessed Easter,
Jeffrey Brandt for the church council

IT'S A SMALL LCIF WORLD!

Renee Brandt recently connected with **Chuck Bunell**, formerly LCIF's Interim Pastor. Both were volunteering at the Habit For Humanity's "Lutheran Work Day" in Altadena, along with a few other familiar faces!

Renee posted this photo on LCIF's Facebook page noting that "Pastor Chuck continues to send love and prayers to LCIF!"

L-R; Renee Brandt, Tristan (friend of David), Bonnie Gould,



TEAM MEETINGS IN APRIL

Finance: Monday, April 20 at 5:00pm
Operations: Tuesday, April 21 at 5:00pm
Church Council: Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00pm
Meetings are in the Conference Room and all are welcome!

PRAYER BREAKFAST—NEW DATE FOR APRIL

Our next Prayer Breakfast will be on the **SECOND** Thursday of the month - **Thursday, April 9 at 9:00am**. We meet at the La Cañada McDonald's - you can get your food and join us for food, fellowship, and prayer.

WOMEN'S GATHER MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Women's GATHER Bible Study will meet on **Tuesday April 14** and **Tuesday, April 28 at 1:00pm** in the Conference Room. No RSVP is needed!

LCIF'S BOOK CLUB

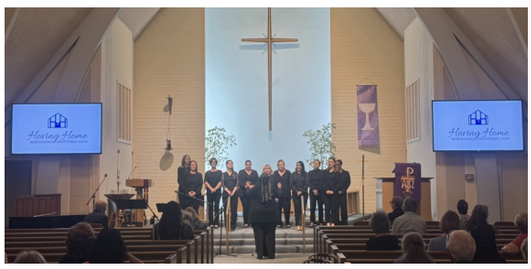
The Book Club will meet this month on **Monday, April 20 at 1:00pm** to discuss Violeta by Isabel Allende. For May, we will be reading How to Read a Book by Monica Wood and meeting on May 18.

LCIF AND TIERRA DEL SOL

LCIF has a new cleaning crew! We've partnered once again with Tierra del Sol, this time to hire them for janitorial services.

Founded in 1971, Tierra del Sol, is an organization that empowers people with developmental disabilities to achieve excellence through integrated workforce development. Some of their clients gain skills through volunteering (like the group that comes to LCIF every week) and some are ready to further their work skills, and they work in programs like janitorial services. LCIF will receive the cleaning services on Monday and Thursday afternoons.

We are proud to hire an organization that not only provides great service but champions inclusion and value for all people with disabilities through creative pathways to employment, education and the arts.

LCIF WELCOMES HOVING HOME!

In a departure from the traditional Sunday sermon, the sanctuary of LCIF was recently filled with songs of redemption and personal accounts of recovery, as the choir from Hoving Home took center stage. The women of the Pasadena-based nonprofit shared their testimonies and musical talents in lieu of a standard sermon, providing the congregation with a firsthand look at the impact of the church's charitable support. Hoving Home, a *(continued on page 4)*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Pat Hartney - April 2
Ellie Baldwin - April 7
Michelle Gropper - April 8
Gavin Hall - April 14
Alex Ujfalusy - April 17
Renee Brandt - April 24
Sadie Dillard - April 29

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

David & Lori Haxton - April 13
Chris & Kathleen Murphy - April 29
David & Janice Schettini - April 20

PRAYER LIST

If you would like someone added to our the list, then please send their name and any other information to office@lcifoothills.org. The list is printed in our bulletin.

REGULAR HAPPENINGS

Sunday School
10am during worship
for children in 1st - 4th grade

Choir Rehearsals
Sundays at 9:15am and 11:30am
No experience needed!

Book Club
Third Monday of the month
1pm in the Fellowship Hall

Women Gather
2nd/4th Tuesdays of the month
1pm in the Conference Room

Knit Together
Wednesdays
1pm in the Conference room

Prayer Breakfast
First Thursday of the Month
9am at the La Cañada McDonalds

Quilters
Saturdays at 9am
in the Quilting Room

LCIF'S STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Each month in our newsletter, there is an image of a stained glass window from our sanctuary along with an explanation.

Here is a window based on John 10:11, The Good Shepherd. This is the second time a shepherd's staff appears in LCIF's windows. The first time had to do with shepherds. Jesus was a shepherd at heart in his ministry. The greatest literature written about a shepherd is the 23rd Psalm. It speaks in loving, secure terms which we understand in Jesus.

- Renee Brandt

WELCOMES HOVING HOME!

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faith-based rehabilitation program founded in 1967, serves women seeking to overcome drug and alcohol addiction.

LCIF has supported the facility through grants from its Endowment Fund. Church members also recently demonstrated their commitment to the cause by attending the Hoving Home silent auction fundraiser during the 2024 Christmas season.

The Hoving Home choir utilized the service to showcase the "holistic" approach of their recovery model, which focuses on spiritual growth and community reintegration. For many in the pews, the service served as a tangible result of the church's financial stewardship.

-Michelle Gropper

Learn more about Hoving Home at HovingHome.org

American Red Cross

Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.
Help save lives.

Give blood.

Blood Drive
Lutheran Church in the Foothills

Fellowship Hall
1700 Foothill Blvd
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

Thursday, May 14, 2026
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: lcfoothills to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Come to give blood May 1-17 and get a $20 eGift Card, thanks to Amazon! See: rcblood.org/Amazon

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

The 15th Annual Bonhoeffer Festival

"THE REALITY OF FASCISM FOR BONHOEFFER AND FOR US TODAY"

Hosted by and located at: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

1700 N. Towne Ave. Claremont, CA.

Thursday April 16th, 2026

Keynote Speaker: Rick Steves

Rick Steves is a renowned TV personality, historian and author.

Author of the "Travel as a Political Act" - Ricksteves.com (Fascism)

Sponsored by Southwest Calif. Synod (ELCA), Pacifica Synod (ELCA)

and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

12:30pm Commemorative Lunch in honor Bonhoeffer's martyrdom

1:30pm Program: Keynote Presentation: Rick Steves

"THE REALITY OF FASCISM FOR BONHOEFFER AND FOR US TODAY"

2:45pm Panel Discussion/Q & A - led by Rev. Dr. Thomas Johnson

Respondents: Bishop Dave Nagler, Rabbi Jonathan Kupetz, Nina Fernando

3:10pm Q & A from audience

RSVP to confirm attendance or for Zoom link at Tjohnson@cst.edu/909-802-9549

Free and Open to Public *(Donations are appreciated)*