

Portal ight

the monthly Newsletter of West Portal Lutheran Church and School

APRIL 2026

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West Portal Lutheran Church Website:

westportallutheran.org

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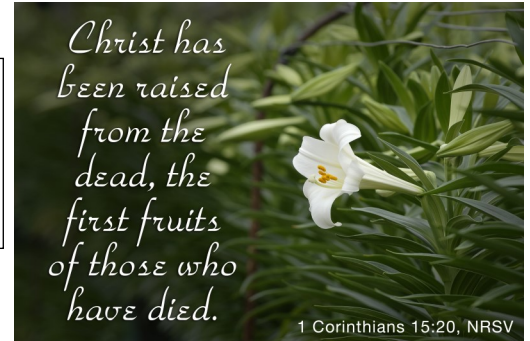
From Pastor Swenson

"But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."
(1 Corinthians 15:20 ESV)

God's grace and peace to you in our risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

Such was St. Paul's conclusion to the Corinthians in the now-famous "resurrection" chapter. Apparently, a dangerous teaching had infiltrated the Corinthian congregation to the effect that some had concluded that the end of our blessings in Christ has already been reached. Those who held to this teaching believed that Christ's blessings are purely in the spiritual realm and are for this life only. They taught that the resurrection is a spiritual resurrection, which has already happened; that there would be no resurrection body to come. Not only is this not true, it has the harmful effect of robbing Christians of their hope.

The truth is that Jesus did rise from the dead. He was crucified and did die, but on the third day, He was raised. He appeared to the women, to Peter, and to the



Emmaus disciples. Then He appeared to the rest of the Apostles, then to "more than five hundred brothers at one time." (1 Cor. 15:6) The Lord spent 40 days among His own, teaching them. He sat and ate with them. They touched Him. Denying that Jesus rose in His body is false, and it doesn't line up with all the evidence we have that He did rise. Or, were all the witnesses misled? Did the Apostles go into all the world to proclaim something they knew to be false?

"But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits." No, contrary to the false teaching that seeped into the Corinthian congregation, and which continues in some parts of the Church today, Jesus was raised from the dead. What's more? He's also the first of more to come. By His resurrection, through our Baptism into Him, we

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will be raised from the dead, too. Though our flesh bears the corruption of sin and must perish, when the Lord returns, He will raise us in our bodies. Should we die before His return, we will go to heaven. At His return, He will put our souls and bodies back together. If we are alive at His return, we will be changed. Things will be different in the Resurrection. We will be in our bodies - just as the Lord was - but they will be changed. We will no longer bear the effects of sin: weakness, illness, corrupt desires, etc. What that will be like, we hardly know; but we will be like the Lord, for we will see Him as He is. And, we will live forever.

Our Lord gives us many diverse and rich blessings. We have the spiritual blessings of forgiveness, hope, and peace now. We also have many physical blessings, such as all the things that fall under "daily bread." We also have the promise of a bodily resurrection to everlasting life at our Lord's return. May the Lord grant you comfort through this promise and let us all take confidence that we shall rejoice with all the Lord's saints in the body at His return.

Yours in the Lord,

Pastor Swenson



LET US PRAY TO THE LORD GOD

for those who are ill, homebound, or recovering from recent hospitalization: Elfriede Bonfert; Charlene

Bruggemann-Wong; Angie Cheung, Helen Bok's sister-in-law; Margaret Choun, Elissa Choun's mother; Bill Eves, Virginia Ferry's cousin; Virginia Ferry; Mary Jo Fischl; Jimmy Fong, Evelyn Fong's father; Gilbert Mogyorossy; Bennette Nulph; Sigrid Rogge; Ruth Stresow; Ray Toloski; Nancy Tso; Elise Wen, Patrick Man's friend; Cheryl Wong; Marilyn Wong.

DIAPER DRIVE

Alpha Pregnancy Center is a ministry that supports Bay Area families facing unexpected pregnancies by providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support as well as providing supplies for babies.

The Christian Service Committee is sponsoring a diaper drive during the month of March to benefit Alpha Pregnancy Center. You can place the diapers in the collection box in the narthex marked with "Alpha". **We are seeking diapers in Sizes—3, 4, 5, 6 & 7—and also Baby Wipes.**

If you prefer, you can write a check to West Portal Lutheran Church and mark a notation "Alpha Pregnancy" in the memo portion of your check. To assist our offering counters and to be sure that your donation is properly credited, please use a separate check and envelope from your regular offering check and envelope. **The deadline for your donation is Sunday, April 19th.** As always, we thank you for participating in this project.

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Weekly Worship Schedule

5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service-Lord's Supper

9:00 AM Sunday School-Sanctuary

9:00 AM Sunday Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service-Lord's Supper

West Portal Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

WPLC Music Academy will hold its spring recital on Saturday, April 25th. There will be 3 performances: 11:30 AM, 1:00 PM, and 2:30 PM all taking place in the sanctuary at 200 Sloat Blvd, S.F. Admission is free and everyone is invited. Our talented students are eager to share their beautiful music with you!



*West Portal Lutheran
Music Academy*
SPRING RECITAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026
11:30 AM, 1:00 PM, & 2:30 PM

SANCTUARY, SLOAT CAMPUS
200 SLOAT BLVD., SAN FRANCISCO



Landmark Birthday Celebration

Dorothy Bridgeman celebrated her 105th birthday on March 17th with Pastor Swenson, Donald Woo and Darlene. She was born on St. Patrick's Day. Dorothy has been a member of our church since 1956 (69 years); was married to Art, who passed away in 2021. Dorothy volunteered in our Church Office over the years when Jan Lundquist was the Church Secretary.



Large birthday card and her favorite cake - chocolate and strawberries.



2/28/26 - 1B Class Singing
Teacher - David Chang



Piano duets: Sofie Lee (4A)
& Sheldon Lee (5A)

Piano accompanist Tyker Dang (8A)



3/1/26
7B Class with teacher Judy Cairo
Solo: Aaron Chu(7B)
Piano Accompanist: Caden Lu (7B)



Piano Solo: Karston Chan (7B)



3/7/26 - 2B Class Singing
Teacher: Sarah Grue
Piano accompanist: Hailey Ng



Piano Solo: Abigail Li (6A)



3/8/26 - 8B Class Singing
Teacher: Tim Dwight
Piano accompanist: Zachary Kwang(8B)



Violin Duets: Derek Chen (8B) and Joshua Fong (8B)

3/28/26 - 3A Class Singing
Teacher: Cara Hanks



Piano accompanist: Margaret Chen (3A)

3/29/26 - 8A Class Singing Accompanied by our Church Choir
Teacher: Iris Hsu



Flute solo: Jeremiah Tan (8A)
Piano Accompanist : Alexander Ou (8A)



West Portal Lutheran School: News from the Principal's Desk

Dear West Portal Lutheran Family of Faith,



*Put on then, as
God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
compassionate
hearts, kindness,
humility, meekness,
and patience,*

*bearing with one another and, if one has a
complaint against another, forgiving each other;
as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must
forgive. (Colossians 3:12-13)*

We are eight months into the school year, and at this point, we have spent a good deal of time together in commUNITY. When you do life together, there are opportunities each day to practice our values of love, grace, integrity and respect. As imperfect, sinful human beings, the call to love each other deeply is challenged by selfish desire, and conflict is inevitable. Part of what we coach our children each day is an awareness of how we show up in community. This awareness leads to managing ourselves better and becoming more socially aware of what impact our actions have on others, leading to more responsible decision making.

We cannot expect to grow in this way without a compelling "why." In Colossians we read that we are to put on characteristics such as kindness, humility, meekness, and patience as God's chosen ones - holy and beloved. This is the "why" from which we

love others - we are no longer our own, but children of God through Christ! And because we are God's children, we are indeed holy and beloved. We have been set apart by the blood of Christ, and our identity is such that we live for Him who died and rose again.

It may seem impossible on a given day to live fully in our identity in Christ. Yet we also know that we are "being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy" (Colossians 1:11). This month we focus with our children on how to "Sort it Out" as we learn to work out how best to connect in relationship with others. This comes with learning to forgive as we rub each other the wrong way and loving deeply, as Christ loves us. May the good news that comes with Easter remind us that victory in Christ is ours! .

Blessings in Christ,

Sherise Lee
Principal



West Portal Lutheran School Events



8th grade class visits the American Bookbinder Museum and sews their own book.



2nd grade at the Academy of Sciences



4th grade class celebrates a birthday

West Portal Lutheran School Events

Encouraging our 8th graders on the Friday that they received their high school admissions notifications - we decorated lockers and cheered them on as they entered school that day.



Sunset Campus Career Day was a hit with our parents sharing with our students more about what they do as students took in the information!





Wednesday, 4/1	11:00 AM	Midweek Bible Class
Thursday, 4/2	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday - Lord's Supper
Friday, 4/3	8:30 AM	Good Friday - Sunset Campus Chapel
Friday, 4/3	11:15 AM	Good Friday- Sloat Campus Chapel
Friday, 4/3	7:00 PM	Good Friday - Tenebrae Service
Saturday, 4/4	10:00 AM	Quilt Class - Fellowship Hall
Saturday, 4/4	5:00 PM	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil - Lord's Supper
Sunday, 4/5	9:00 AM	Adult Bible Study - Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 4/5	10:00 AM	Easter Sunday - Lord's Supper
Sunday, 4/5	11:15 AM	Easter Brunch, followed by Easter Egg Hunting
Wednesday, 4/8	11:00 AM	Midweek Bible Class
Saturday, 4/11	5:00 PM	Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Sunday, 4/12	9:00 AM	Adult Bible Study - Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 4/12	10:00 AM	Worship Service - Lord's Supper
Sunday, 4/12	11:15AM	Council Meeting
Monday, 4/13	6:00 PM	Membership Class-Church Library
Wednesday, 4/16	11:00 AM	Midweek Bible Class
Saturday, 4/18	5:00 PM	Worship Service-Partners-in-Faith K1 Class Singing
Sunday, 4/19	9:00 AM	Sunday School - Sanctuary
Sunday, 4/19	9:00 AM	Adult Bible Study - Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 4/19	10:00 AM	Worship Service - Lord's Supper
Monday, 4/20	6:00 PM	Membership Class-Church Library
Wednesday, 4/22	11:00 AM	Midweek Bible Class
Saturday, 4/25	11:00 AM	Spring Recital-Sanctuary
Saturday, 4/25	5:00 PM	Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Sunday, 4/26	9:00 AM	Adult Bible Study - Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 4/27	10:00 AM	Worship Service - Lord's Supper
Monday, 4/27	6:00 PM	Membership Class-Church Library
Wednesday, 4/29	11:00 AM	Midweek Bible Class



1 Wyatt Toloski	8 Georgeanne Wedergren	22 Mike Aymard
2 Kathryn Bersaglieri	8 Fred Jacob	22 Matthew Kitagawa
2 Eddy Tsang	9 Samantha Nulph	22 Nicole Lee
2 Tim Bass	9 Rachel Li	24 Patty Tsang
2 Sienna Lo	10 Amy Bohlen	24 Nathaniel Lew
2 Kendra Char	11 Jennie Fong	24 Christy Wood
2 Jeremy Keoni Chinn	12 Renata Otterbach	25 Cayla Szeto
3 Helen Bok	13 Aaron Adams	26 Brenda Rumbaugh
3 Kailey Sjaufwoekloy	13 Carsten Nixdorf	26 Viviana Soper
4 Emersynn Lea Binz	14 Megan Yu	26 Kestrel Ueber
4 Andrew Esposto	14 Allan Uy	27 Mariah Wright
4 Frank Ferry	14 Genevieve Cragg	28 Samantha Sun
5 Dan Holt	15 Rico Ellis	29 Chloe Fong
5 Marilyn Wong	15 David Still	29 Jennie Ho
6 Agnes Situ	15 Rev. David Stechholz	30 Eugene Quan
6 Cynthia Tom	15 Kaileigh Willis	
6 Carl Wildenradt	16 Kvan Tsang	
7 Alex Lew	16 Monette Yee	
7 Diana Louie	16 Rose Leung	
7 Jessica Wong	17 Nancy Eisen	
	19 Doris Fung	
	19 Penelope Esposto	2 Keith & Eliza Latimore
	19 Thomas Esposto	7 Dick & Audrey Bass
	21 Kurtis Szu	21 Christopher & Cheryl Leong
	21 Chloe Yeh	23 Joseph Man & Phuong Cooc
	22 Kevin Chang	



"Pray for one another" (James 5:16)

Let us follow this command of God's Word. Use the birthdays and anniversaries list each month to hold up one another to the Lord in prayer. You may wish to keep this list on your refrigerator, in your Bible, in your Portals of Prayer, or in some convenient place. What strength we receive from Almighty God when we sincerely pray for one another! And in these "interesting times," a call to a member wishing him/her birthday or anniversary greetings would probably be appreciated. It's particularly important that we keep in contact with each other when we're unable to meet in person.

