

# New Life News

Volume 9, Issue 5

May 2003



New Life is a church of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

## LCMS News

**LCMS World Mission, POBLO approve joint work in Pakistan:** LCMS World Mission has entered into a partnership with People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) International to plant churches and train leaders in Pakistan and other Asian countries.



**Thrivent Foundation announces \$1.1 million CUS challenge grant:** The Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation announced in March that it is giving a \$1.1 million challenge grant to support the LCMS Concordia University System's (CUS) "For the Sake of the Church" campaign and the 10 CUS colleges and universities. The grant, to be distributed over the next 18 months, is contingent on CUS and the schools raising an additional \$2.5 million in funding.

**News items taken from [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org).**

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## *From the Pastor's Heart:*

### *Is Your Body In Shape for the Summer?*

Have you seen the different types of fitness equipment on sale? They're all meant to help our bodies be lean and mean. Our bodies are quite important gifts to us from God, and it is a joy and honor to take good care of them through physical fitness.



We also have another body. It is a priceless gift from God, equally in need of our attention to fitness. It is the church of Christ, made up of all the people who Jesus has called to Himself through faith in Himself. We brothers and sisters of New Life are a local expression of the great universal body of Christ, which includes all believers of all times. Jesus is the head of New Life, and every one of us, with all our various gifts and backgrounds, are His body.

How do we know Christ's body at New Life is healthy? First, New Life is where the Gospel is being shared in truth and purity and it is where the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are being administered. Second, based upon and growing out of these marks of the church, New Life seeks to grow even more physically fit by purposefully using God's Word to nurture, equip, train, and send Gospel workers to minister in the Lord's vineyard of the world.

The earliest Christians understood these matters well: ***They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*** (Acts 2:42 NIV) Can we say the same of our fervent devotion to our Lord? Look at how incredibly Jesus blessed His early church: They witnessed God working powerfully among them. They gathered regularly for united worship. They worked together harmoniously, just like parts of a healthy body. They had genuine mutual concern for each other's spiritual well being. They helped each other through difficulties with hands that prayed and hands that helped. They even gathered together in members' homes between Sunday worships. Acts 2 finishes with these incredible words: ***And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.***

Do you want God to bless New Life and you in this way? Then be people of His Word! Read the Bible and pray daily! Be faithful in Sunday attendance! Serve Jesus by serving in one of the many ministries of New Life. Join a small group! Sing in the Hosanna choir! Be an usher! Volunteer to teach Sunday School! Join the altar guild! Attend training opportunities!

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**Help the Youth and C2 Fellowships! Participate in New Life's evangelism outreach! Give regularly of your spiritual and financial gifts! Pray for New Life's leaders! When you serve at New Life, you serve Christ, and He has promised to bless. Christ's body of New Life is an important part of His plan to minister to you, and you are an important part of His plan for New Life. Make sure *Jesus* has a healthy *New Life* body!**

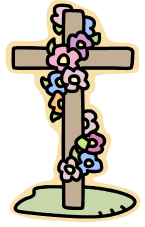
In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Chip<><*

Chinese translation of "From the Pastor's Heart" is not available electronically.  
Please refer to the paper version.

*“Wondrous or Wonderful Cross?” by Young Bun Chang*

Chinese language version of “Wondrous or Wonderful Cross” is not available electronically. Please refer to the paper version.



# Christ is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!

By Shirley Chan

## Good Friday, April 18

When I was driving to church for Good Friday service, I thought to myself, "What can I learn after so many Easters? It's always the same old story." I was tempted to skip, but it was Pastor Chip's first Good Friday service, and I wanted to see what he had to say that was different.

I was surprised to see such a large turnout. In the Order of Worship, the seven last words of Jesus were read and meditated upon while Pastor and lay preachers gave a short devotion on each passage.



Easter lilies and receipt stubs on the Good Friday cross

The meditation stilled my heart for the first time in many hectic weeks. I thought about the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, and how each one of us has salvation through no good works or worthiness of our own.

Then Pastor led us into Confession of Sins. Instead of reciting the usual confession, we all received a receipt form like the ones used in restaurants. On the receipt, we wrote our sins privately. When we were finished, we tore off the bottom "Guest Receipt" stub. We took the "merchant copy" stub and nailed it to a 12 foot, wooden cross in the back of the church. There was a lot of hammering noise as over 40 people nailed their "sin stubs." We took the charge list of our private sins to the backyard where we burned them in a can near the barbeque stand. I kidded another member to make sure the papers burned to complete ashes!

Finally, we took the "customer copy" of the receipt home with us to remember that Jesus Christ has paid for our sins in full. My receipt is taped to the top of my computer monitor, where I can see right now as I'm typing this article.

Date: Good Friday

Server: Jesus

Table No. Isaiah 53:11

Total Amount of Check: Paid

## Easter Day, April 20

Still moved by the Good Friday service, I went to Easter Sunday service with a clear and hopeful heart. We the congregation had so much hope that the canvassing that was done a few weeks earlier, and invitations, would bring new faces to church.

God did not disappoint us. Besides the "regulars," there were members and friends whom we had not seen for awhile, and new people who were invited by someone who shared the Easter joy with them. During the service, the Youth Fellowship re-enacted the Gospel passage found in John 20:1-18. A tomb was even built for the skit! Pastor Chip gave a thoughtful sermon titled, "Is Jesus Really God?" and the congregation sang beautiful Easter hymns.

Of course, the most fun part began after service. New Life held it's traditional Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn of the church building. The children had a great time finding plastic eggs full of candy. Seeing all the young kids run around was great, but even more heartwarming was witnessing some kids sharing their candy loot with other children who were not as successful finding eggs.



Mary Magdalene (Kristen Yee) asks the Angel (Melissa Laureta) where Jesus' body is.

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Finally, what would a celebration be if there wasn't a luncheon? After the egg hunt, everyone enjoyed a plentiful, tasty lunch. It was a good time to talk more intimately with our friends and visitors.

I've been to a lot of Easters, but I honestly think that this year's was the best ever. †



C2 Fellowship sings for choir



David Fox, Matthew Chan, Matthew Yee, and Kristen Yee acting in the Gospel drama



New Life Choir



New Life Choir



Sabrina Yee, Michael Yee, Alyssa Yee, and Emily Tam



Kacey Chui



Jonathan Fox and Jeffrey Yee

### Easter Photographs



Pastor Chip, Jonathan, Hannah, and David Fox



Happy Easter!



Matthew Chan, Justin Lum, and Jeffrey Woo enjoy the sun before the luncheon begins



Melina and Melicia Wong, Corry Chang, Patricia Soung, Bryan Chan, and Tyler Chang (upside down)



Tim Tam, and Dorcas and Yan Oi Wong think, "Great food!"



Good friends enjoy good conversation

# Mother's Day Tribute

***Mother's Day is on May 11. The Youth and C2 Fellowship were asked to write a funny or happy story of their mothers when they were young. God bless our moms!***



## Two Sand Diggers

*By Noreen Lum*

My family used to live two blocks away from the beach, and my mom would take my older brother and me to play in the sun. Since the age of five, I have always loved digging. One time, I came across a new toy that I found buried in the sand. I was really excited! I decided to have some more fun by burying some of my other toys in the sand so I could get that same excitement over and over again.

For a long time, I had a lot of fun as I found my toys. Later on, I couldn't find one of them, and realized that I had lost it. It had been a long day and my mom told us that it was time to go home, but I persistently kept digging, determined to find my toy. She saw that I was in tears, and picked up my plastic, yellow shovel to help me. Thanks for helping me dig out my treasures, Mommy!



## Flying Tiger

*By Shirley Chan*

When I was about 5 years old, I had a favorite stuffed tiger animal. I loved it so much that my mom had to re-sew and re-stuff the entire bottom because I dragged it around all the time. One day while riding in the car, I thought I would try to make my tiger fly, so I threw it out the window on a busy city street. Immediately after the tiger hit the road, I knew I had made a big mistake, and I started crying for my tiger. My mom was really mad, but she actually pulled the car over and went into the street to retrieve my tiger. I'll never forget how grateful I felt.



## An "Apology"

*By Melina Wong*

A few years ago, my mother and my sisters were shopping at a clothing store. There was some sort of sale and we were looking for some good buys at this messy store. Shopping isn't my favorite hobby and I was getting bored walking around. So I decided to follow my mother. My mom was busy focusing on the details of a sweater and didn't realize I was behind her. She stepped back quickly and stepped on my foot. Without knowing it was me, she immediately began to apologize profusely. Then, as she turned around and saw that it was me, she seized her heartfelt apology and simply said in Chinese, "Aiyah! It's just you."



# Mother's Day

## Missed the Whole Thing

*By Jason Lum*

It was Parking Ticket Day. Justin, my mom and I were walking back home and we saw this guy and his car with the hood up, and the guy looked like he was eating one of the pieces in the car. He was closing his eyes and it looks like he was trying to concentrate on the taste of the pieces. Then Justin was laughing and when we walked away, he was slowly moving to the tire and we didn't know what this guy was doing, but that made me laugh, but the sad part is that my mom missed everything, but that was one of the funniest moments of my life.



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## **Driving Mom**

*By Melina Wong*

When I first went to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, I was not used to living on my own and often times I would forget important due dates to pay my tuition for school. During those times, my mother was a big help because she remembered all the important dates and would call me to remind me to go to the office to pay.

But one time my mother forgot to call me until the day my tuition was due and I didn't have enough money in my account to pay. Without paying my tuition, I would be unable to register for classes. My mother was very worried. So that morning she drove four hours to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, dropped off the check for me, and drove another four hours back to San Francisco to be back on time for work.

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## **A New Toy, A New Baby**

*By Kristen Yee*

When I was around 4 years old, my second youngest brother, Jeffrey, was born. On the

day that Jeffrey came home from the hospital, my mom gave my brother, Matthew, and me each a toy. I received a toy food set. I was so surprised and happy because I had gotten a new toy and it wasn't even my birthday yet. I recall playing with the food set countless times and pretending to be a cook. At that time I didn't know, but my mom had given my brother and me each a toy because she knew that the new baby was going to have lots of attention, and she didn't want us to feel left out. Well, that day I felt very special. I am grateful for everything that my mom has done for my family and me. I'm certainly blessed to have such a wonderful mother.

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## **Kiddie Rides**

*By Melissa Laureta*

My most favorite memory with my mom was when my family went to Great America. Although I couldn't go on any exciting rides, I went on the rides for little children. There was also the time when I was in pre-school. On my birthday she brought goodie bags. It was really fun!!! The last favorite memory with my mom was when I went to Marine World. Again, I couldn't ride exciting rides because of my age, but with my mom, we both went on kiddie rides. †

# **Three Going on Four – Food Pantry Project Started**

*By Tim Tam*



The San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project got off to a running start during the month of March. There was a Dedication Worship Service on March 21, led by Rev. Pauling, Grace Lutheran Interim Pastor, to properly focus all participants on the purpose of the food pantry: to help feed needy families in the city. Also, it was an opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love to all those that we came in contact with through this project. Rev. Pauling reminded us all that the Bible clearly tells us one of the many good things that Jesus did during his life on this earth was to spend time with the poor, sick, and those in need. On March 22, there was a special training session put on by our partner organization, the San Francisco Food Bank, on how to actually run the food pantry. Currently, the food pantry serves 20-25 families each week.

Finally, on March 29, the food pantry opened its doors to the neighborhood at Shepard of the Hills in the Diamond Heights district of San Francisco. During the month of April, each team took turns administering the food bank each Saturday morning. Although the majority of the work is done on Saturdays, there is still a need for a few helpers who are available for an hour or two on Friday afternoons to help sort the food after it is dropped off by the San Francisco Food Bank.

Even though the food pantry has already begun, it is not too late to join. In fact, the project started with three teams and has formed a fourth as we begin to gain experience with this new endeavor. Please contact Susan Yee or Tim Tam if you have questions or want to join. †

New Life Chinese Lutheran Church 路德會新生命堂  
 Worship at Noriega Street and 43rd Avenue

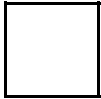
# May 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:30a Worship 11am Sunday School & Discovery Classes National Day of Prayer Sunday ■ Barbara Lee	5 ■ Young Bun Chang	6	7 7:30p Outreach Program ■ Kwoon Chiu Ng ■ Melina Wong ■ Andrew Yee	1 National Day of Prayer	2 7:30p C2 Fellowship ■ John Chan	3 9am Food Pantry (Team 1)
11 9:30a Holy Communion 11am Mother's Day Program Mother's Day	12	13	14 7:30p Outreach Prayer	15 10:30a English District Circuit Meeting at Messiah, Danville	16 7:30p C2 Fellowship	17 9am Food Pantry (Team 3) 9:30a Laguna Honda ■ Hannah Fox
18 9:30a Worship 11am Sunday School & Discovery Classes Deadline for Officer Nominations 12:15p MMC Meeting	19	20 8:30-10:30a Pastor Chip at West Portal for Devotions 7pm Nehemiah Meeting	21 8:30-10:30a Pastor Chip at West Portal for Devotions 7:30p Outreach Program	22 8:30-10:30a Pastor Chip at West Portal for Devotions ■ Christine Wong ■ Dorcas Wong	23 7:30p Youth Fellowship	24 9am Food Pantry (Team 4)
25 9:30a Holy Communion 11am Sunday School & Discovery Classes Ballot Announced ■ Leland Wong	26 Memorial Day	27	28 7:30p Outreach Prayer	29 Ascension Day	30 7:30p C2 & Youth Fellowship ■ Aaron Tse	31 9am Food Pantry (all youth groups) CNH National Youth Gathering Meeting ■ Connie Szeto



May 2003

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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### Awesome Upcoming Events!

- Pastor Chip and Kelley Ng attend English District Convention, June 19-20 at River Forest, IL
- Youth & Young Adult Camping at Loon Lake, June 27-29
- Congregational Retreat at Redwood Alliance Retreat Center, July 25-27



### *New Life News*

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**Chinese Translators:** Hannah Fox, Gail Wong

New Life News is the monthly newsletter, communicating the vision and mission of New Life Chinese Lutheran Church in San Francisco, California.

The **vision** of NLCLC is to bring the life-changing word of God to its community and to care for and nurture all those that hear it. As a spiritual family, we shall edify those in our fellowship and reach out to the unchurched. In so doing, we will teach, train, and equip new disciples to grow in their faith through Bible study, witnessing, service, and missions.

The **mission** of NLCLC is to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Our primary mission is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the unchurched community, disciple and nurture them in the body of Christ, and equip them for Christian service and spiritual leadership through Christ-centered worship and Bible study groups.

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