

Our Vision:
To Be the Lantern to Leisure World

Our Mission:
Lighting a pathway into Community.
Growing disciples in God's Love.
Sending the Hope and Joy of Jesus into the World.

Leisure World Community Church
in Worship *February 26, 2023*

14000 Church Place
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

9:50 am
(562) 431-2503

Opening Announcements — Rev. Johan Dodge

Good Morning and Welcome to Worship!

Worship is often the first place that new people come into contact with this growing community of faith. And so if you are joining us for the first time, I say to you what I say every Sunday. You are welcome here. Here is a place where all are welcome. For such is the love of God for God's Very Good Creation. And if you are enjoying this worship experience, I invite you to give to God in support of this growing faith community.

[please stand as you are able]

CALL TO WORSHIP – “Doxology”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY – Virginia Olejnik

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not**

into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn: “Just A Closer Walk with Thee”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

With all the faithful, let us pray to the Lord, who is our hiding place in times of trouble, who surrounds us with glad cries of deliverance.

We pray for all who are hungry

whether hungry for power and glory or hungry for a simple meal.

Show the mighty that you alone can satisfy their deepest need, and feed the poor from the abundance of your good creation.

We pray for the church in times of trial

whether tested by tempestuous change or tempted by safety of the status quo. Give us peace when anger and fear threaten to divide us, and challenge us when we are too comfortable in this world.

We pray for leaders in high places

whether determined to help those who suffer or distant from the cries of the oppressed. Open their eyes to see your saving power at work, and open their ears to hear your prophets' calls for justice.

Lord God, instruct us in the way we should go and let your steadfast love surround us always;

in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Anthem: “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Virginia Olejnik

O Lord, may the words of your mouth be our daily bread, and may the leading of your Spirit become our way; in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Virginia Olejnik

Romans 5:12-19

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with

you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Message: "From Ashes to Glory Pt 1: Children as the Hands of a Loving God"
Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

How might you grow in faith and draw near to Jesus through the forty days of Lent? Let Jesus 'three responses to the devil be your guide:
(1) study Scripture (live by the Word of God;
(2) seek reconciliation with God and others; and
(3) be active and intentional about participating in the work of your congregation.

Reflection: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" John Fluker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Virginia Olejnik

As God so freely offers us the gift of life in Jesus Christ, let us respond with gratitude, offering our lives to God.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "What A Wonderful World" Lisa Margaroli, *alto*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Virginia Olejnik

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the free and abundant gift of grace you have given us in Jesus Christ. Let the simple gifts of our lives be a sign of our unending gratitude for your undying love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May the steadfast love of God surround you throughout these forty days and into everlasting life.

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Amen.

*Music Team: Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*; Lisa Margaroli, *alto*; Dave Albulario, *tenor*; Chris Wade, *bass*; John Fluker/Hannah Yi, *pianist*

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship is back on: Flowers are provided by Mary Granger. Refreshments are provided by Jeanette Williams.

See the sign up charts to provide refreshments or cover cost of altar flowers. Altar flowers are \$35. Sandy Walker coordinates arrangements.

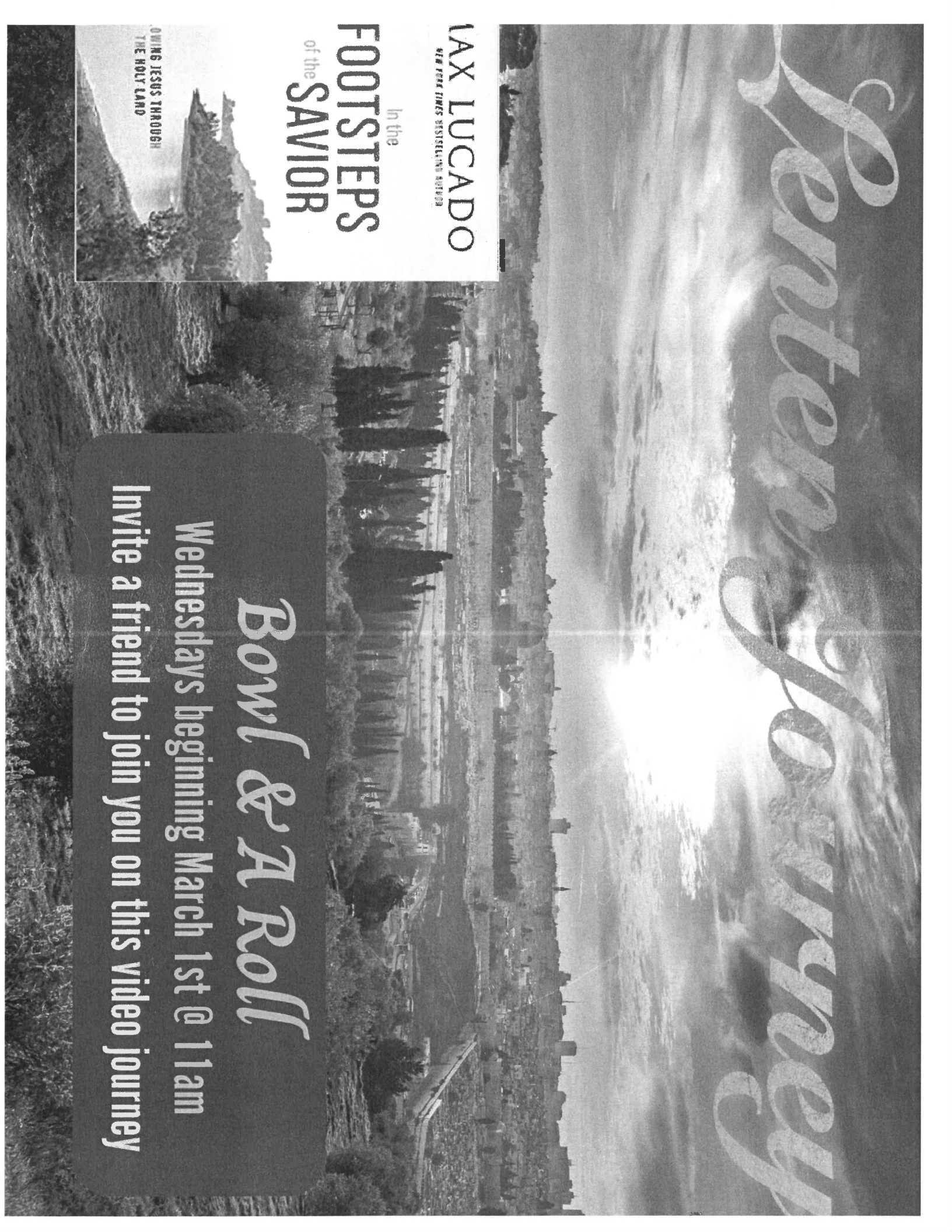
Important Banking Notice: Our bank no longer accepts checks written to "Community Church". Checks now must be written to "Leisure World Community Church".

March Lantern Newsletter: Available at the check in table if you did not receive yours by email or mail.

Kitchen/roof area drain repair help: A separate leak was discovered after the recent rain. If you would like to donate financially (separate from your pledge) toward the new drain/repair bill of \$6400, please use a green envelope and mark "**Drain Repair**" on the envelope and memo line of your check.

Lenten Journey begins March 1: The six-week series includes a "Bowl and a Roll" lunch. Please join us beginning on March 1 for the Lenten video series, "In the Footsteps of the Savior", with pastor and author, Max Lucado.

LBCC Symphony Orchestra Concert: Sunday, March 5 at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary. The concert features our own accompanist, Hannah Yi. Please invite your friends and neighbors. A donation is suggested at the door.



Serene Journey

IAX LUCADO
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

In the
FOOTSTEPS
of the
SAVIOR

SHOWING JESUS THROUGH
THE HOLY LAND

Bowl & A Roll
Wednesdays beginning March 1st @ 11am
Invite a friend to join you on this video journey