

March 25, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers of our Hermanamiento of Laurel Galan,

We at Peace Lutheran Church hold each one of you in our hearts and prayers. During this season of Lent we are especially aware of God's love in the presence of Christ Jesus who is given to each one of us. May your Lenten Journey bring you closer to our Lord-God and may you experience the deep blessing of Easter.

The Partnership Committee met today after our church service and wanted you to know some of what is happening at Peace Lutheran.

- Our Sunday School Program is growing under Pastor Anita's loving direction and we are again trying to develop a growing youth and family ministry.
- We will be holding a Seder Meal with our friends at the Jewish Congregation nearby. This will be a time to remember how God led the people out of slavery in Egypt. This gathering with the Jewish Congregation for the Seder meal is one example of how we at Peace Lutheran work for interfaith connections. We believe it is so important for world peace to have members of different religious groups get to know and respect each other.
- One Sunday evening a month Peace holds a service called Jazz At Peace. It is a time when many people outside of our church join with members of the congregation to experience our church.
- We are planning a Partnership Sunday in May to talk to our entire congregation about our partnership relationships with you in Laurel Galan and with our partners in South Africa. In 2004 Calvin from our South African Partnership joined our delegation when we visited you. Do you remember him?
- Emily Weller is our new seminarian at Peace. She is studying to become a pastor and is very interested in our partnership with you and South Africa.
- On Wednesday evenings during Lent members of the church have met together for a simple meal of soup and a time to worship. It has been a real blessing to all who attended.
- We are joyously looking forward to Easter and the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Do you remember Emily the young college woman who joined our delegation when we were with you in July? She is now living about 50 miles from us so we have invited her to visit with us. We are excited that she will join us at our Partnership Sunday Worship Service in May.

We are very anxious to hear from you!! Have you established a Community Garden? How was the harvest this year? Are you meeting together often? We heard there has been a lot of illness in your community and we pray that the health of your loved ones has improved. What are last year's high school graduates doing? Have any of them been able to continue their education or do they have jobs?

We are searching for ways to improve our communication with you. With our South African partners we are able to use the internet to send messages. We understand there is an internet café in San Francisco Libre and that it costs perhaps one dollar to use for an hour. If you know of someone who can send e-mail letters, our Partnership Committee would pay the costs of the internet service. Knowing how to type is of great help in using computers and sending e-mails. Is there any opportunity to learn typing skills at the high school in Laurel Galan? If this is something that you think would be helpful, perhaps Peace Lutheran can work with the high school to make this a possibility. Please let us know what you think about all of this.

During this time of Easter and new life, we pray that you will feel the fullness of God's love and peace. Remember that you are always in our hearts and prayers.

With love and a big hug to each of you,

The Peace Partnership Group

Karl, Grace, and Elisabeth Pfeiffer, Christy, Bob, Bobby, and Allison Winter, Libby Flynn, Gil Jardine, Ceil McCloy, Grace Cavallaro, Emily Weller, Pastor Steve, and Arlene Reed