

MESSENGER

VOLUME 68, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2019

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!



JOURNEY WITH JESUS

WITH ANDY WILSON

**WEDNESDAYS, 6:30-8:00 PM THROUGH MAY 2019
DURING PEAK ("PRAISE AND EDUCATION FOR ADULTS AND KIDS")**

Our goal in this lively, discussion-based seminar is to "put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness"

(Ephesians 4:24). Each week we shine a light on a different aspect of the Christian life. Andy Wilson (and occasionally co-leader Doug Given) offers teaching from the Bible and various theologians; then we discuss the challenges and blessings of following Jesus in our daily lives. Regular participation is encouraged but not required. Join us Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 PM in the Sanctuary. (Topics

and scheduling may vary.)

During our gathering, LCPC offers four different groups for children so you don't have to worry about childcare. Also, you can join us between 5:30 and 6:30 PM in Koopmans Hall for an excellent, inexpensive dinner. Questions? Contact Andy Wilson or Nancy Thomas (818) 249-6137 (nancy@lcp.net)

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OUTLINE OF TOPICS FOR SPRING, 2019

- April 3 Praying for Physical Healing
- April 10 Praying for Spiritual Healing
- April 17 Holy Week – No PEAK
- April 24 Christian Outreach in our Diverse Culture
- May 1 Resurrection and the New Creation
- May 8 Yoked With Jesus
- May 15 Exodus: Lessons from the Wilderness
- May 22 What Has God Revealed About the Final Days?

PASTOR'S LETTER



Dear friends,
Recently, I had an extended conversation with friends about prayer habits. We all agreed: prayer is absolutely crucial for our growth in the Spirit. Intimacy with Christ first and foremost through prayer. We also agreed that prayer can be frustrating, and for many different reasons.

That got me thinking about my own experience. What have I learned? Here, in condensed form, are some ideas and practices that have guided me through the years. Though I'm writing here in personal terms (this isn't intended as a set of universal guidelines), I hope something here will prove helpful. Please understand, I offer these thoughts not as an expert, but in humble recognition that I remain a novice in prayer. If I've made any progress or gained any wisdom, it has come through a great deal of failure and heartache.

I try to begin and end my day with a prayer. Sometimes it's as brief as, "Help me, Lord, to walk with you this day" or "Forgive me, Lord, for the selfish attitude that I displayed this afternoon." When I start with prayer, I'm closer to God throughout the day. When I end with prayer, I have the sense that God is restoring me, body and soul, as I sleep.

My prayers for myself begin with a prayer that God will change me. I ask for the character traits that will help me to resemble more closely my Lord Christ. To guide my thoughts and keep me focused, I first list the vices that I struggle with – the ones that have hounded me throughout my life. (There are five on my list. Yours might be shorter.) Then I ask the Spirit to help me grow in virtue. Using the

list of seven virtues that include the four "classical" virtues and the three "theological" virtues, I ask for wisdom, justice, moderation (or self-control), courage, faith, hope, and above all, love – love from above – the kind of love that will enable me to love others as Jesus loves them.

I'm most effective in my prayers when I work my time with the Lord into my daily and weekly routines. The most satisfying and transformative prayer times for me often occur when I'm praying with a circle of friends or with the whole church family during Sunday worship. Private prayer is sometimes more of a struggle. It helps me to pray when I work out. I incorporate the movement and exertion of my body almost as a form of dance, and that helps me focus my whole being on God. When I'm traveling and my routine is thrown off, I make use of the wonderful collection of morning and evening prayers in John Baillie's *A Diary of Private Prayer*.

It's hard to be mindful of a God who is hidden from sight. I find it easier to remember the Lord and to relate to him when I look for Him in other people. When I'm feeling far from God, and especially when I'm in a selfish funk, I seek his face in the faces of the people right in front of me: the cashier at Ralphs, the gardener fixing the church's sprinklers for the 4th time in as many months, the disheveled guy with the three bulging trash bags sitting on the bus bench talking to himself, and of course my co-workers, my daughters, and my wife. I'm trying to train myself to offer up simple prayers

of blessing for the people God has placed in my path. I'm trying to take better notice of others, and to remember that everyone is struggling, everyone is hurting, and everyone stands in need of grace. As I do so, I'm discovering a greater intimacy with Jesus.

Our Lenten journey will end this month. Very soon we'll gather to remember the events of Holy Week, and the Lord's victory over death. May we experience the joy and peace of the Lord as we gather together.

And may the Spirit awaken faith as the glorious news of Christ's resurrection spreads throughout the nations.

Love and good cheer,
Andy Wilson

CFC FAITH UPDATE

This year, as Easter approaches and we talk about Jesus' love and sacrifice for us, we will also talk about how we can show Jesus our love and appreciation through art. For the first time ever, we will have an Easter Art Gallery. Between now and Easter, children of all ages are invited to create a piece of art (painting, sketch, sculpture, poem etc.) that reminds them of Jesus' love and sacrifice, of the cross and the resurrection. On Easter morning, the gallery will be open for everyone to walk through before and after services. I can't wait to fill the church Narthex with beautiful reminders of the greatest miracle of all time!

ALL-CHURCH WORK DAY



On Saturday, April 6, in plenty of time for Easter, please plan to help spiff up LCPC at the next All-Church Work Day. Come and leave any time from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. What ever time you can invest will pay big dividends. Bring the whole family! There will be windows to wash, pews to polish, plants to prune – you get the idea. Snacks and coffee will be provided throughout the morning. Look for signups for your favorite job during coffee hour the two Sundays prior to April 6. For more information or to suggest additional tasks, contact Judy Trumbo at: jktrumbo@gmail.com.

BISTRO 50+ FUN FOOD, FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday,
April 23
12 Noon
in Koopmans
Join us for lunch. Only \$5!

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**MESSENGER DEADLINE
MONDAY, APRIL 15
9:00 AM SHARP!**

Messenger articles and corrections should be emailed to shawndraws@gmail.com. Please put the word "Messenger" in the subject line. They can also be placed in the Messenger folder. Materials submitted after the deadline may be omitted at the discretion of the editor.



LEE'S LATEST

We're continuing our study of James, and I have been so blessed by reading this wonderful, challenging letter. We have looked at how we can persevere through trials and what kind of faith God wants us to show. This month we'll explore how to control our tongues (and our tweets and Facebook posts), the power of humility, and prayer that works. If you have missed any of our meetings, you can catch up by listening to my Podcast. You can also find it on our website and Facebook page. I hope your Lenten journey has been a meaningful time of reflection; I know God has been working in my life. I am so grateful for this time of year.



Love in Him,
Lee



of it before but felt so much a part of our church family at that moment. It remains one of my most cherished traditions at LCPC. I hope that you and your loved ones will attend this blessed service. The Deacons love putting together this meal and find the preparation and serving of it to be a real joy of fellowship.

Remember, you have many opportunities to help your church family, whether you are a Deacon or not. We always need ushers, greeters, gardeners (Cornerstone Crew on Saturdays) volunteer drivers, meal train meal makers, etc.

Speaking of Meal Train, I made a mistake last month in Armineh Manookian's email address. It is: amanookian@yahoo.com. I hope my error did not cause difficulties for anyone wishing to volunteer a meal!

Remember your blessings my friends, and be a blessing wherever you go.

In the Name of Christ,
Kerry Milbrodt

Dear Friends,
How wonderful it is to see our beautiful green hillsides and smell the sweet aroma of Spring flowers and the citrus blossoms! I am grateful for the beauty that our Lord surrounds us with each morning. I am grateful for the knowledge that God loves us enough to give us this amazing earth to enjoy. I am grateful as well for his undying faithfulness in giving us our Savior, Jesus. As Easter approaches, I am trying to slow down and savor how blessed I am by the Grace that saves me and gives me hope for the future, here on earth and in heaven.

Some of my favorite events during Lent are the Ash Wednesday service, setting us onto our Lenten journey, the Maundy Thursday supper and service and, of course, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. These services are comforting reminders of how we are loved and how we can love others.

I remember our first Maundy Thursday supper when our girls were very young. I had never heard



ABIDE STUDENT MINISTRIES

We've got tons of fun activities coming up in ABIDE! Please mark your calendar for our major Summer events and be on the lookout for all the awesome smaller events we'll be doing throughout the Summer. Here's a list of what we've got going on over the next few months, including some specific information for this month's Lockout!

ABIDE LOCKOUT APRIL 13

What: Our ABIDE Lockout is our HUGE, 10-hour event with the major goal of students bringing their friends to church! We will spend the 10 hours driving all around the greater LA area and doing TONS of fun and crazy stuff.

Who: Jr. Highers and High Schoolers are both welcome!

Where: Drop off and Pick up is at LCPC

When: April 13, 2:00 PM-Midnight
How Much: The Lockout cost is \$20, but if you bring a friend who does not regularly attend LCPC it's HALF-PRICE for you and your friend!

Everything Else ABIDE in the next few months:

- April 1: CAMP Registration Opens
- April 6: Crescenta Valley Relay for Life
- April 13: ABIDE Lockout
- April 19: Good Friday Vigil
- April 21: Easter Sunday

- May 23: Last ABIDE Midweek of the school year
- May 31: Puppy Party

June 9: SENIOR BANQUET

- June 11: Last day of GUSD
- June 12: Breakaway Summer Kick-Off
- June 15-24: Project Dominicana

- July 8-12: VBS at LCPC
- July 14-18: Wildlife Tour
- July 18-22: JR HIGH SUMMER CAMP**
- July 28-August 3: HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP @ MOUNT HERMON**



children's Ministries

by Ashley Pollock

Our regular church calendar looks a little different during Holy Week. We will have Palm Sunday services on April 14 at the usual 9:00 and 11:00 AM times. All children are invited to line up in the breezeway before each service to process through the Sanctuary at the beginning of each service waving palms. It is a fun tradition and a neat way for them to connect what we have learned about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with their own church experience. There will be no PEAK on Wednesday, April 17, because we will have a Maundy Thursday service and Good Friday service. Please check the church calendar for more details on these services. They're intergenerational, so there is not separate children's programming, but they are meaningful – I think especially for our SPARKS age kids.

Then on my favorite day of the year, Easter Sunday, April 21, we will have a Resurrection Celebration at both services! We will have special sensory play in the nursery. And children in preschool through 6th grade will celebrate with worship, a church-wide scavenger hunt, an Easter Art Gallery, and more!

The Easter Art Gallery is something we have never done before. Between now and Easter, children at LCPC and CFC are invited to create a piece of art (painting, sketch, sculpture, poem, etc.) that represents Christ's death and/or resurrection. We have talked about how art can be an act of worship and these pieces will be like offerings we are bringing to our Savior. On Easter morning, the gallery will be open for everyone to walk through before and after services. Every year, I get so excited to celebrate the greatest miracle in all history with my church family. Hallelujah! He is Risen!

It's not too early to start planning for Summer as I am sure you busy parents already know. Some of you have likely been planning your Summer



SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN THE GARDEN

Conversations is currently on hiatus, but will resume in June. Watch this space for the exact date.

2019 since Summer 2018! SPARKS Summer Camp and VBS will be back this summer and, for the first time, registration for both events can happen online!

Our VBS theme this year is "Into the Wild – Amazing Encounters with Jesus!" VBS will run July 8-12 from 9:00 AM to Noon and is open to children ages 4 through 6th grade. The cost this year is \$40 for the week. Online registration will be open by Easter Sunday and more details will follow. If you want to register before Easter, you can pick up a hard copy in the church office. I am praying that this will be an amazing, worshipful, kind of wacky week for the wonderful children of our church, CFC and community.

Summer Camp for 4th-6th graders will run from July 21-26 at The Village at Forest Home. All registration takes place online at: foresthome.org. Camp this year will focus on John 14:6-7 Jesus answered, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."*

The cost of camp is \$350, but scholarships are available. We don't want the cost to be prohibitive for any child who wants to attend. Please contact Ashley@lcpc.net for more information.

I look forward to our times of worship and celebration in April!

In Christ,
Ashley

Kids Say The Darndest Things

Ashley: "What did you read about in Lively Lambs tonight?"

3-Year-Old: "I can't remember! I just can't!"

Me: "That's okay! We can talk about it again."

3-Year-Old: "I just know Jesus was walking on water and then his friend got out of the boat to walk to him and he started going down in the water and Jesus helped him."

Me: (*thinking to myself*) "That's pretty much the whole story!"

2018 MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

As you probably know the M&O committee oversees the dispersal of 10% of LCPC's revenues to missionaries, mission trips, as well as support for the wider PCUSA. In addition, the committee disperses Christmas Offering collections and hosts the Alternative Gift Fair. Here are just some of the funds collected and dispersed this past year:

Support of eight missionaries	\$26,400
Mission trips	24,700
Hurricane and fire relief thru PCUSA	5,000
Christmas offerings	4,100
Alternative Gift Fair	1,400
World Vision Collection-Child. Min. (a children's ministry project)	5,500

Thanks so much for your support of these mission efforts by your tithes, offerings, and gifts throughout the year.

M&O Committee





The old saying goes, “April showers bring May flowers” but we Southern Californians learned that lots of February and March showers bring **wildflower super blooms** and **swarms of butterflies!** What a beautiful Spring this is turning out to be, just in time for **Easter**.

We hope you'll join us for our **Holy Week** services! There won't be PEAK on Wednesday April 17, but there will be a special dinner the next night, April 18, before the **Maundy Thursday** service. The **Deacons** will be preparing and serving their delicious vegetable beef soup (a vegetarian option too), with bread and oranges from 5:30 – 6:30 PM in Koopmans, followed by the service at 7:00 PM.

The **Good Friday** service will be at 7:00 PM, April 18, and immediately after the service, the **giant boulder** will be rolled in front of the Sanctuary doors. We will once again gather around a campfire in the front of the church from 7:50-10:00 PM for a vigil led through songs, prayers and readings. We'll have coffee and cookies too!



Easter Sunday, the boulder will be rolled away and we will have our regular services at 9:00 and 11:00 AM, celebrating our risen Lord with worship music, the **Cathedral Choir** and special musicians. It's the perfect opportunity to bring your friends and family who may not usually attend a church service.

To get ready for the Holy Week services, we're having our annual **All-Church Work Day** on Saturday, April 6, from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. We're looking for volunteers to help clean out storage areas, spruce up planter beds, wash windows, polish pews, and other important tasks around the campus. Contact **Judy Trumbo** to sign up to help – jktrumbo@gmail.com.

Foothills Relay for Life is also going on that weekend at Clark Magnet School, Saturday April 6, from 9:00 AM to Sunday April 7, 9:00 AM. The **LCPC Team Halos** will have a booth and be walking round the clock to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Contact **Amanda Granier** at Amanda.granier@gmail.com to sign up for a time slot and to register on the team page. Let's give generously to this worthwhile cause that touches all of us.

The **Annual Meeting** of the congregation will be the evening of Sunday, April 7. Please join us for this informative gathering that sums up all we accomplished in 2018 and looks forward to LCPC's vision for 2019. We will also have our 3rd **Town Hall Meeting** on Sunday, April 28, from 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the Sanctuary to discuss another topic of the Strategic Plan.



Let's hear it for **Josh**, his dad **David Horton**, and **Duane** and **Ashley Fernandez** (pictured above) for conquering the **Abide Ride!** They rode 333 miles on their bikes (in the rain!) from LCPC to the Mexico border and back to raise money for Student Ministries camps and mission trips. They were tired but thrilled when they returned to church to the excited congregation waiting to welcome them out on Montrose Avenue. They raised close to \$4,000!

LCPC's first ever **Pi Night** was a smashing success! (literally) Everyone enjoyed the delicious pizza provided by **Ameci Pizza Kitchen** in La Crescenta. They very kindly offered us a discount and threw in a couple free pizzas. The variety of pies for dessert was amazing, and a difficult choice to decide which pies to partake in! The kids loved **Chrissy Mark's** fabulous “make your own mini pie” station, but the pie-throwing booth was the

highlight of the night! Thank you to our enthusiastic and brave staff – **Andy, Lee, Austin, Josh, Kristy** and **Mary** for letting your loving congregation throw whipped cream pies at your faces. You're the best - Here's to 3.1415926...!

Bunco Night at **Greg and Rachel Wolflick's** home was a huge hit as always! I don't know how rolling three little dice can get everyone so wild and crazy, but it does and everyone loves it! Can't wait for next year!

The annual **Rummage Sale** raised about \$2,000 for the **Casa Spring Break Mission Trip**. Thank you **Jerry White, Josh, Austin** and **Jim Granier, Darrell Fernandez, Alice Hill, Terry Long** and **Jim and Marvene Larson** for the long hours and hard work you put into making it a success. A team of 30 energetic kids and adults headed to Rosarito soon after and performed a lot of cinder block work on the **Casa de Los Angeles Orphanage**. They visited other orphanages in the area and enjoyed the kids there. The group ended the trip with tacos on the beach while they processed their week together.

The **Pollock family** is thrilled to have baby **Carter** home with them after 96 days in the NICU! Carter is 18 weeks old now, almost 7 pounds

and loves being with his mommy, daddy and big sister **Charlie**. **Darren** and **Ashley** are so grateful for all the prayers from our church family.

Congratulations to **Tyler Carlson** and **Steven Hodges** and the rest of the **CV Falcon Varsity basketball team**. In this historic season, the Falcons reached the CIF State Semifinals and made it into the Final 4 for all California high schools. Their team is tied for the most wins in all of CV's history! So much fun to watch you boys make basket after basket. Go Falcons!

Congratulations also to **Gary Woodward** and **Jeanette Draney** on their recent marriage! We're so happy you found each other here at LCPC and wish you all the best!

This Easter remember Jesus didn't say, “I am finished.” He said, “It is finished.” He was just getting started. **He is Risen Indeed!** Talk to you next month.



CFC Heartbeat



Director's Corner

The Easter season is upon us! At CFC this means that we spring into Spring with our themes and activities. You will see artwork that represents the change of the seasons with bugs, flowers, bunnies, and sunshine. After our very wet Winter, once again it will be lovely to explore the great outdoors. Everything is green and plush right now. When we talk to the children about Easter, we talk about God's plan for the world, that He wants us to live kind and gentle lives. That Jesus walked on the earth so that we would have a way to get to know God. It can be confusing for adults to understand the resurrection so we don't expect children to. Our message is that God loves them.

There will be lots of opportunities to worship at LCPC during Holy Week. Please look for information throughout this newsletter for church activities. We would love to worship with your family this week.

Pat



Family Time

This month if you are looking for a family activity, check out the poppy fields of Lancaster. The fields have been disappointing for the last several years but due to the rains, the wild flowers are predicted to be spectacular this season. For information on this activity go to: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=627. Looking closer to home, don't forget a walk around Descanso Gardens or the LA County Arboretum in Arcadia.



Find us on Facebook

Summer Day Camp



Summer Day Camps have become very popular in our area. There are specialty camps, away camps, summer school, etc. I want to tell you a little bit about our Summer Day Camp at CFC.

My philosophy and overriding theme is "Summers the way they were meant to be." What I mean is that summer is a great time to try new things, visit lots of different places around LA such as museums, amusement parks, ballgames and other activities. It is also a time to go to local parks to play and explore, lie in the grass and watch clouds go by, have BBQs and water fights etc. It is a time to swim, go to the beach 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM and find shells. Summer camp is also a time for arts and crafts, on-campus assemblies, music, and cooking!



The great news is that CFC allows children to do all these things. Children at the CFC also participate in Vacation Bible School, the Red, White and Blue Parade and other on-campus activities. With all of this going on who has time for videos games and screens, not us! Our day camp is open from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. We can help with local transportation to and from summer schools and other local activities. Check with the office if you need that accommodation. Our fees includes all hours between 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, lunch on Friday, entrance fees for field trips 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM and activities on campus. You supply the kid, we supply the fun!



Music With Max

Each week, Max visits our toddler – preschool classes on Friday and provides a music program for the students. It is very interactive and the children love to learn new skills. Here is one activity the children participated in during March – "Rhythm Sticks." There are so many great activities with rhythm sticks and it's an instrument that the children always enjoy. We also had fun with the following activities: "Boom Chicka Boom" - An echo song that focuses on beat and vocal pitch. "Hickory Dickory Dock" - The classic children's rhyme works very well for fusing movement, beat, and counting. "Happy and You Know It" - I use this song to try different ways for the children to use their sticks. For example we sing "Happy and You Know It" and then tap four times; then tap on the floor; then tap real high, etc.

Grandparents Day

By popular demand, we are adding this special day to our annual events. On Thursday, April 11, we invite all the grandparents with children in our preschool program to join us for a morning of fun. Grandparents may come at 8:30 AM to enjoy morning breakfast with their grandkids, then enjoy morning activities both inside and out, ending with Chapel from about 10:30 – 11:00 AM. Look for signups in the classroom. Additionally, regardless if a grandparent is coming or not, the teachers have grandparent information sheets we would love to have you and your child fill out. Take as many sheets as they have grandparents! We will post these in the classrooms and use them to talk about families during the week.

GUSD Closure

The GUSD will be closed on Wednesday, April 24, but the CFC will be open all day for school age children.

CHURCH STAFF

Andy Wilson	Pastor andy@lpc.net
Lee Cook	Director of Spiritual Formation lee@lpc.net
Joshua Horton	Director of Student Ministries josh@lpc.net
Ashley Pollock	Director of Children's Ministries ashley@lpc.net
Gary Woodward	Choir Director
Dan Blessinger	Producer of Contemporary Music
Nancy Thomas	Office Manager nancy@lpc.net
Pat Murphy Chambers	Director, Center For Children pat@lpc.net
Helen Tuma Teri Reid	Assistant Director Office Administrator



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

NEW SONG WORSHIP (CONTEMPORARY), SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM
SERVICE OF PRAISE (CLASSIC), SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM

As Lent comes to a close, we will continue on our journey through the Book of Matthew. We will walk with Jesus through his final weeks as he enters Jerusalem as her King, prays in the garden, is betrayed and crucified, and finally as he defeats death on Easter morning. Bring your

friends to hear the good news.

Beginning April 28, Lee will begin a new sermon series: "Selfie: Discovering Your Identity in Christ." We will look at how knowing who we are in Christ can lead us to the most fulfilling life we can imagine.

APRIL 7

Message by Lee Cook
"Matthew: My Brother's Keeper"
For personal study: Matthew 18:15-20

APRIL 14 PALM SUNDAY

Message by Lee Cook
"Matthew: The Coming King"
For personal study: Matthew 21:1-11

APRIL 18, 7:00 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

This beautiful service includes sacred music by the Cathedral Choir, contemporary songs, and powerful images of Holy Week art through the centuries. The Lord's Supper is served at candlelit tables as we share personal prayers. The Deacons will serve a simple but delicious Sacrificial Meal in Koopmans Hall

from 5:45-6:45 PM (no charge).
Message: "Matthew: Guest of Honor"
For personal study: Matthew 26:17-30

APRIL 19, 7:00 PM GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Prayers, contemporary songs
and a montage of images
focus our hearts on Christ's Passion.

Message:
"Matthew: Why have you forsaken me?"
For personal study: Matthew 27:45-55

APRIL 19 7:50 - 10:00 PM EASTER CAMPFIRE VIGIL

(in front of the Sanctuary doors)
Following the Good Friday worship,
we gather around a roaring campfire for
songs, prayers and conversation.
Coffee and cookies are available.
Stop by anytime and bring a friend!

April 21 Easter Sunday He is Risen!

At the Contemporary service (9:00 AM), the Praise Band will help us celebrate New Life with fresh new songs.

The Classic service (11:00 AM) will feature stirring music by the Cathedral Choir with brass ensemble accompaniment.

Message by Lee Cook
"Matthew: Go and Tell"
For personal study: Matthew 28:1-20

APRIL 28

Message by Lee Cook
"Selfie: I Have a Story"
For personal study: Acts 9:1-19

Don't just invite a friend; bring one!