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Lodi churches come together for Good Friday services

By Oula Miquel
 NEWS-SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

As harmonious hymns echoed through the halls of First United Methodist Church of Lodi on Friday afternoon, parishioners and clergy members came together in observance of Good Friday.

First United Methodist hosted community worship, which brought together pastors from 20 different churches in Lodi to represent the various Protestant denominations honoring the Easter celebration.

All the pews of the church and its balcony were filled with residents united in worship and faith.

The service began with words of welcome by Major Mark Thielenhaus of the Salvation Army and a prelude by organist Angela Sonner of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Manteca.

The opening prayer was led



Lydia Salters, 10, sings during the Good Friday Community Service at First United Methodist Church in Lodi on Friday.

by Pastor Chris Townsend of Emanuel Lutheran Church.

"Bless us on this Good Friday as we gather through the chaos and suffering so we may learn from his example, the way we should go," Townsend said.

As flecks of color gleamed through stained glass windows

adorned on the walls of the church and speckles of color illuminated the room, and parishioners followed the attentively as pastor Bob Mason from English Oaks Adventist Church led in a scripture reading of Corinthians 1:17-30.

PLEASE SEE FRIDAY, PAGE 6



NEWS-SENTINEL PHOTOGRAPHS BY BEA AHBECK

The Ham Lane Worship Team sings during the Good Friday Community Service at First United Methodist Church in Lodi on Friday.

A work of Art



NEWS-SENTINEL PHOTOGRAPHS BY BEA AHBECK/NEWS-SENTINEL

Art Schimke, a World War II U.S. Army veteran, is celebrated at his birthday party as he turns 100, at Village Coffee in Lodi on Friday morning. At far left is his son, Kurt Schimke, standing. Janet Maxwell of Morada and Charles Mettler, to right of Schimke.

Lodi World War II veteran celebrates 100th birthday

By John Bays
 NEWS-SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

There was barely enough room to walk in Village Coffee as Lodians packed the restaurant early Friday morning to celebrate the 100th birthday of World War II veteran Art Schimke.

"This is really a great honor for us because nobody in town is as 'Lodi' as Art is," said Raleigh Morrow, who owns the restaurant along with his wife Juli.

An "everyday attraction," at Village Coffee, Raleigh said Schimke has occupied the same seat at the same table most mornings for nearly 40 years.



Art Schimke blows out his candles at his birthday party as he turns 100, at Village Coffee in Lodi on Friday morning.

"If someone's in his seat, cane and ask them to move," he'll tap the chair with his Raleigh said.

"He used to walk here almost a mile every day," Juli said.

Born near Franklin in 1919, Schimke grew up hunting with his brothers and was living in Alpine County — where he still owns a hunting cabin — when in 1942 he was drafted into the U.S. Army.

"Right after Pearl Harbor," Schimke said.

Part of the 10th Mountain Division, Schimke spent most of the war in Italy where he rose to the rank of first sergeant. Despite being shot twice, he survived until the war ended and he was able to take his men on a tour of the battlefield in a C-47 airplane.

PLEASE SEE ART, PAGE 6

Parents get 25 years to life for torturing, imprisoning kids

By Paloma Esquivel
 LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — A Peris, couple who for years tortured, abused and imprisoned their children, starving them and at times chaining them to their beds, were sentenced Friday to 25 years to life in prison.

"I cannot describe in words what we went through growing up. Sometimes I still have nightmares of things that have happened," one of the victims told the court before the sentencing. "But that is the past and this is now. I love my parents and have forgiven them for a lot of the things that they did to us."

David and Louise Turpin, who are the parents of 13 children, each pleaded guilty to 14 felony charges in February, including one count of torture, four of false imprisonment, six of cruelty to adult dependents and three of willful child cruelty.

The horrific details of the case have drawn attention around the world, but Friday was the first time some of the siblings publicly spoke for themselves. Their message was largely one of looking toward the future. A number of them described the love they still have for their parents.

Jane Doe No. 4, who is 30 years old, walked into the courtroom with tears in her eyes, holding a cup of water and notes in one hand. She spoke softly, was extremely thin and looked frail, but her message spoke to strength and resilience.

"My parents took my whole life from me, but now I'm taking my life back. I'm in college now and living independently," she said. "I believe everything happens for a reason. Life may have been bad, but it made me strong. I

fought to become the person I am."

She said she had watched her father change her mother. "They almost changed me," she said.

But "I'm a fighter, I'm strong and I'm shooting through life like a rocket," she said.

As she spoke, Louise Turpin, who before the hearing had been smiling and laughing with her lawyer, began to cry.

When she finished reading her statement, Jane Doe No. 4 took a seat in the courtroom and was followed by her brother, who gave his name, Joshua. He is 27 years old.

As the two oldest children, their lawyer later said, Joshua and Jane Doe No. 4 felt an obligation to speak for their siblings.

Joshua began by reading a statement written by another sister, Jessica, 25.

"I love both my parents so much. Although it may not have been the best way of raising us, I'm glad that they did because it made me the person I am today. I just want to thank them for teaching me about God and faith," the statement said. "I pray often for them."

Jessica's statement went on to describe the things she has learned since her parents were arrested.

"I am doing well," the statement said. "I am going to college full time. I have an apartment and I am able to transport myself independently by bus, bike or walking. We are not supposed to necessarily understand God's will, but we are only to follow and trust in him, for as the heavens are higher than the Earth, so are my ways higher than your ways."

PLEASE SEE PARENTS, PAGE 6

Index

Local 2,8
Opinion 4

Business 5
Obituaries 7

Sports 9-10
Religion 12

Classified 15
Comics 17

Weather 70 high 48 low

Saturday will have variable cloudiness. Sunday through Thursday will be sunny, but Tuesday will have a few clouds. Full report, Page 18.



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