

# The Master's Notes

April 2010

## Lutheran Church of The Master

*a Reconciling in Christ congregation*

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The Reverend Ronald White, Interim Pastor



Craig Shepherd 2000

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### **FROM THE PASTOR**

#### **EASTER - NOT JUST ONE DAY**

In forty years of ministry, one of the great mysteries to me has been that the Sunday after Easter is often the least attended non-summer Sunday of the church year. It's almost as if for many the thinking is, "Well, now that we've done that, we can get back to things as normal." This reveals a significant misunderstanding of Easter's meaning. The resurrection of Jesus was not so that things could return to normal, but that a new day would arise.

In last month's Master's Notes, I pointed out the importance of the prepositions in the names that are given to the Sundays of the church year. The seven Sundays following Easter are the Sundays of Easter, not after Easter. In fact, the early church chose Sunday as its day of worship as a weekly celebration of the resurrection, since the day of worship in the Old Testament was the seventh day, Saturday. In the liturgy, each Sunday we hear the story of salvation through confession and forgiveness, the reading and proclamation of God's word, the proclamation of our faith, and the participation in the Lord's Supper.

Easter is more than the observance of an event that happened 2,000 years ago. And it is more than the assurance that I will go to heaven when my earthly journey is ended. Certainly it is those things, but it is much more. Easter is the proclamation that light triumphs over darkness, love triumphs over hate, and life triumphs over death. As heirs of the resurrection, we are called to be agents of light, love, and life in the world. We are called to be more than believers in Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection. We are called to be disciples, followers of Jesus. Jesus calls us to more than salvation, but to be his presence in the world. This is why Paul calls the church the body of Christ.

What is the difference between a believer and a disciple? A disciple puts their beliefs into action. I can say I believe something, but as a disciple that belief will be reflected in the choices I make in all areas of my life—my time, my money, and my talents. Certainly, I

often fail to fulfill this call. Only one person did, and he hung on a cross for me and all people. I do not seek to live a life of faithfulness in order to win my salvation, but in response to a salvation already given as a free gift through Christ's death and resurrection. We can only live by God's grace. That does not excuse us from working for love, peace, and justice. It empowers us to work for love, peace and justice.

I pray that you not only have a blessed Easter Day, but a blessed Easter life, and that your life is a blessing to others.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Ron*

#### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Maunder Thursday** - Thursday, April 1 - 7:30 p.m.  
at Westwood Hills Congregational Church  
1989 Westwood Boulevard (at La Grange)  
Supper and Service in Fellowship Hall

**Good Friday** - Friday, April 2 - 8:00 p.m.  
Tenebrae Service - "Shadows of the Cross"

**Festival of Easter** - April 4 - 11:00 a.m.  
Choir, Organ, Brass Choir

#### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

In March, our congregational giving (including online contributions) totaled \$11,374.10 bringing us to \$32,922.78 offerings received year-to-date, or at 23.22% (\$2,529.97) shy of our annual goal of \$141,775.00. Thanks for the generosity and regularity of your giving. Keep it up!

*Emily Jackson-Yano, Financial Secretary*

## STATUS OF THE CALL PROCESS

The Call Committee is interviewing the four pastors interested in this call as a parish pastor. The names of the pastors cannot be shared in order to protect their privacy. The Call Committee members are: Deborah Warren, Kevin Grant, Richard Levine and Barbara Browning. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

*Barbara Browning, Chair Call Committee*

## PROPERTY MAINTENANCE UPDATE

The long hours of work by Steve Newberry and Joshua Nickel are becoming more and more noticeable. Check out the windows and doors along the west side of the building! All have been refreshed – sanded, re-glazed, and painted. The Parish House back door is almost finished - it required major surgery with a new door jamb frame – the old wood was riddled with termite damage (see pictures in Parish House). The outside door of the Pastor's Sacristy has also been refurbished. A big thank you to Steve and Josh.

## PLANTER BOXES

The installation of the new planter boxes has been completed and the "lilac family" plants are in place. The plants are California natives and are drought resistant. The Council approved the installation of two "water harvesting" planter boxes here at the church. The planters are part of an L.A. City grant program which provides various water saving and water 'cleaning' projects in the city at no cost to selected property owners. The planters are on the west side of the building in the spaces that were planted at ground level under the art glass windows. Rain water from the roof will be drained through new downspouts into the new planters, watering the plants and filtering and 'cleaning' the water before releasing it into the parking lot and city storm drains.

## MEMORY MONTH UPDATE

The Council chose for 2009 Memory Month project the much-needed refurbishing of certain altar brass pieces. Memory Month is an LCM tradition - during the month from Mother's Day to Father's Day when we underwrite a special church project in honor of or in memory of loved ones. We are happy to announce that the brass items will be finished and back in place for the Easter weekend. Thank you to everyone that had a part in getting this project completed.

## DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

The April, May, June edition of the Christ In Our Home devotional booklet is available in the pew racks and the narthex. **Please take one!** You will notice that these booklets are from our own Augsburg publishing house, and we have received both regular print and large print. Check with Robin for a large print copy.

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

You can study the Bible every Sunday morning. We meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Parish house and are studying the texts. The ELCA and our Synod have committed to the initiative: **"Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible"** and we are using some of these new resources in our study. Come, grab a donut and a cup of coffee, and experience the power of scripture!

## FLOWER CHART

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| April 4  | Charles Peruchini,<br>in memory of his mother.     |
| April 11 | Open   |
| April 18 | Barbara Browning,<br>in memory of her mother Elva. |
| April 25 | In honor of Steve Newberry's birthday.             |

## OUR PRAYER LIST

**Peggy Anderson, Bill Ashton** (cousin of Emily Jackson-Yano), **Bryanna** (friend of the Knickerbockers), **Dolores Brown** (friend of Peggy Anderson), **Lois Bykiewicz** (sister of Peggy Anderson), **Judith Cowie** (aunt of Charles Peruchini), **Donna Crean, Hollis "Deke" Erdmann, Bettijune Fanning, Marilyn Feiman** (sister-in-law of Charles Peruchini), **Arne Foss, Pastor Nancy Hamm** (Christ Lutheran Church, Downey), **Chris Jackson** (nephew of Emily Jackson-Yano), **Lois Jackson** (mother of Emily Jackson-Yano), **Jonathan Kovac** (brother of Deborah Warren), **Pastor Gary & Madeleine Marshall, Gisela Marx, Derick Metzger** (family of Peggy Anderson), **Janice Newberry** (family of Steve Newberry), **Marty Oliver** (friend of Kaitlyn Nickel), **Ed Polite** (friend of Robin Nickel), **Grace Rogoff** (granddaughter of Charles Peruchini), **Millie Rojas, Eddi Rytterager** (friend of the Nickel family), **Lori Splinter** (Vice President of the Synod), **Polina Tashlitskaya** (friend of the Knickerbockers), **Rick Wetts** (son of Hazel and Wayne Wetts), **Frances Wilms, Mary Ann Wright** (sister of Millie Rojas), **Members of the AA Groups**, and **All Churches in the LA Metro Conferences**