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The Master's Notes

June 2009

Lutheran Church of The Master

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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John Rollefson – Pastor



FROM THE PASTOR

HOLY TRINITY

On Sunday, June 7th, which the Church celebrates as Holy Trinity Sunday, you will hear our choir sing an unusually dramatic and difficult piece that we have been rehearsing for several weeks entitled—you will be forgiven for thinking rather oddly entitled—"In the Year that King Uzziah Died." Whenever I see or hear that title I can't help but think of the old song from the '60's music "Hair," that begins: "In the Year 2494" or whatever the year was. You don't really need to know who King Uzziah was (one of the Davidic kings of the southern kingdom of Judah), but only that in this year sometime over half a millennium before Jesus, the prophet Isaiah experienced an ecstatic and vivid vision of God "*sitting on a throne, high and lofty,*" his robe filling the temple, surrounded by six-winged angels singing together a song we know well: "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.*" It's a song called The Sanctus that we join in weekly as a part of our Eucharistic liturgy.

It's a passage that brother Martin of Wittenberg liked well enough to write his own hymn based on it entitled "Isaiah in a Vision Did of Old"—#868 in ELW and #528 in LBW—which I'd wager are the least-sung hymns in both hymnals!

While Isaiah's exotic vision is the attention-grabbing piece of the story, the real point of the passage is the call Isaiah hears from the voice of God which he hears in the form of a question as God asks: "*Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*" God's referencing godself in the plural pronoun "us" is the reason, I expect, we find this text appointed to be read on Holy Trinity Sunday. But the prophet's response to God's call and query is the punch-line we are to remember and to repeat for ourselves in response to God's call that comes to us in the thick of our lives. "Here am I," Isaiah says. "Send me!" The line as you'll hear it in the choir's rendition is wonderfully gentle and understated, ending in a ppp pianissimo that can barely be heard especially in

contrast to the bombastic noise and almost lurid color of the vision itself. It reminds me of that passage in Kings in which the prophet Elijah fails to encounter God in the earthquake, wind and fire but only in a "still, small voice"—what one translation calls in sibilant assonance the "sound of sheer silence."

So let this be your invitation to expect and experience our Triune God's presence not in the glitzy and glorious mountain-top moments of life, but in the quiet, unspectacular ordinariness with which God is continually gifting us. As that old saying of Luther's, I discovered on a wall during a quiet walk through Weimar during my sabbatical, put it: *Die Welt is voll alltaeglicher Wunder.* Indeed the world is full of everyday wonder!

Pastor John

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through all but the final Sunday of May, 21 Sundays through the fiscal year, we have received just over \$62,000 in regular offerings or about 40% of the \$146,000 we set as our annual giving goal. Heading into summer we hope you will be as regular and generous in your giving as you are able, using the mail-in feature of your offering envelope or our new Simply Giving service available to you. Please too remember our special "Memory Month" refurbishing of our altarware project with a special gift on or before Father's Day, June 21st.

NEW LCM EMAIL ADDRESS

We are changing the church email address. The new address is associated with our website and is now in the bulletin header for your reference. The new address is **churchoffice@lutheran.churchofthemaster.org**. Please put this address in your address book - yes, we know it is long! Please start using the new address, but we will be checking both addresses for some time and will advise you when we close out the Juno address.

MEMORY MONTH

The Council has chosen for this year's Memory Month project the much needed refurbishing of certain of the altar brass pieces and the baptismal font. Memory Month is a LCM tradition - during the month from Mother's Day to Father's Day when we underwrite a special church project in honor or memory of loved ones. We have obtained some preliminary estimates for the refurbishing and expect the overall costs will be \$1000.00 or less. Your donation June be marked "Memory Month" and will be acknowledged in the bulletin.

SIMPLY GIVING LINK

Contributions may now be made to Lutheran Church of The Master with the secure Electronic Giving service of Vanco Services and Thrivent for Lutherans, using the Simply Giving link on the church website. Go to:

<http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org>

and click on the CONTRIBUTE tab.

There is no cost to you for this program. You June donate to the church either in a one-time contribution or in an ongoing arrangement for regular offerings. You June have your offerings debited directly from your checking or savings account or from your credit card. You choose the donation frequency (weekly or monthly) and the donation amount for each fund you wish to support. This program allows you to contribute even when you have to be away. The financial secretary and the treasurer receive weekly reports of giving from Vanco Services to maintain the records of your giving and the church's receipts. Register by clicking on the Simply Giving - Give Now link. This link communicates directly and securely with Vanco Services. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the church office (310) 473-1055. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this new giving opportunity!

ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Congratulations to Alexis Wesley and Griff Rollefson on earning their graduate degrees! The Masters of Music in Voice, with Distinction, will be awarded this week to Alexis by California State University, Northridge. Griff has just received word that his dissertation, "The Political Ramifications of Immigrant Music in Berlin, London, and Paris" has been accepted. Griff will receive his Ph. D. in Musicology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Good work!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY PROJECT

We are collecting paperback books for to send to a prison here in Los Angeles. You are all invited to bring paperbacks to church or drop them off in the office! Our last Sunday for collecting paperbacks will be June 7th.

COME OUT AND SUPPORT

Plan to enjoy much good music and support our student musicians.

JOSHUA and KAITLYN NICKEL - will be singing music of American composers in the Santa Monica High School Spring concert on Friday, June 5th, at 7:00 p.m. in Barnum Hall.

DORY SCHULTZ, Tenor - will present his senior recital Friday, June 5th at 8:00 p.m. in the Jan Popper Theatre in Schoenberg Music Building at UCLA.

CHRISTOPHER REMMEL, Bass-Baritone - sings his senior recital Sunday afternoon, June 7th, at 5:00 p.m. in the Jan Popper Theatre at UCLA.

JOANNA FOOTE, Soprano - will be giving her Master's recital on Monday, June 8th, at 8:00 p.m. in the Jan Popper Theatre at UCLA.

ANDREY ASTAIZA, French Horn - will present his Doctoral recital here at Church of The Master on June 12th at 8:00 p.m.

FLOWER CHART

June 7	John and Ruth Rollefson, in honor of their 37 th anniversary.
June 14	Ron and Robin Nickel, in honor of Josh's birthday and his high school graduation.
June 21	Barbara Browning, in memory of her mother Elva and her father Albert Browning.
June 28	Kristen and Mike Rubi, in honor of Lilia Zosia Rubi's 1 st birthday.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Peggy Anderson

Bill Ashton (cousin of Emily Jackson-Yano)

The Bernhardt Family (friends of Dave Shelton)

Bill and Marilyn Bierden

Dolores Brown (friend of Peggy Anderson)

Bill Busch (friend of Charles Peruchini)

Lois Bykiewicz (sister of Peggy Anderson)

The Campbell Family (friends of Dave Shelton)

Judith Cowie (aunt of Charles Peruchini)

Donna Crean (Hoag Memorial Hospital)

David Digregorio (neighbor and friend of the Knickerbockers)

Capt. Durwin Ellerman

June Foray Donovan (friend of Dave Shelton)

Phyllis Gibson

Chris Jackson (nephew of Emily Jackson-Yano)

Jonathan Kovac (brother of Deborah Warren)

Janet Peale Lambert (daughter of Billie Peale)

Lilli Lepp

Pastor Gary Marshall

Gisela Marx

Marcy Pine

Alan O'Day (friend of Charles Peruchini)

Ofelia Rodriguez (colleague of Sarah Knickerbocker)

Eddi Rytterager (friend of the Nickel family)

Jackie Savage

Mary Ann Wright (sister of Millie Rojas)