

# The Master's Notes

June 2010

## Lutheran Church of The Master

*a Reconciling in Christ congregation*

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The Reverend Ronald White, Interim Pastor



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### FROM THE PASTOR

#### THOUGHTS ABOUT SPIRITUALITY

We have just celebrated Pentecost, the third major festival of the church year. On the first Christian Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, and the barrier of language that separated the pilgrims who had come to Jerusalem for the Jewish festival of Pentecost was torn down, according to Acts 2. The Book of Acts is Luke's account of the Holy Spirit empowering the disciples to be Christ's witnesses in "Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Bertha was a 90 year old saint who was confined to the infirmary in a convalescent home. While serving a congregation in the area, I had been asked if I would visit her regularly and bring her communion, even though she was not a member. One day, as I walked into her room, she told me that there was something she wanted to ask me. She said that she could understand God the Father as creator, because she looked out her window and could see trees and mountains and birds and the sky and knew they couldn't be by accident. And she could understand God the Son, Jesus Christ, because he was a human being. But she couldn't understand the Holy Spirit at all. I told her that the Holy Spirit was the power of God and Christ in the present. It was the Holy Spirit who enabled her to believe in God the Father and God the Son.

There is a great deal of conversation today about "spirituality." It is a popular subject of books. It is not unusual to hear someone say, "I'm spiritual, but I'm not religious." I have always wanted to hear someone explain what they mean by that. It appears that what is most often meant is that I am a person of faith, but I am not a part of any organized religious institution. On one occasion when a pastor colleague of mine heard someone say that they had a problem with organized religion, he responded, "That's ok, we're not that organized."

Among the gifts of the Spirit Paul lists in I Corinthians 12 is the discernment of spirits. We tend to think that if we are inspired by something, it must be the Holy Spirit. The truth is there are other spirits than the Spirit. The Holy Spirit cannot be separated from Christ, since the Holy Spirit continues the work of Christ in the world. The Holy Spirit comes to us through the means of grace, that is, through God's Word and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. While we receive these gifts as individuals, we receive them through the community of the Church, and through them we become a part of the church.

Paul calls the church the body of Christ. By this he means that the church is the visible presence of Christ in the world. Granted, there are times when the church distorts the presence of Christ in the world. The Holy Spirit not only convicts us of sin, it also frees us from the bondage of sin by his gifts of forgiveness and grace. The church is not a community of perfect people, but forgiven people who open themselves to discipleship in Jesus Christ by opening themselves to the leading of the Spirit as it is proclaimed in God's Word.

Christian spirituality is not our own creation, but rather the working of God's Spirit in us. How can I know if the spirit working in me is the Holy Spirit, and not some other spirit? If it builds up Christ, and it builds up Christ's church, it is the Holy Spirit. If it only builds up me, then it is another spirit.

The season of Pentecost is the longest season of the church year. In fact, it is half the year. Perhaps that is because it takes that much time to understand how God the Holy Spirit is working in us and in the world.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you and keep you in faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Pastor Ron

## THANKS BE TO GOD!

Ioan Ittu has accepted the "Call" to serve as our pastor. He will be ordained at the Synod Assembly on June 5<sup>th</sup> and begin his ministry with us on July 4<sup>th</sup>. We of Church of The Master are all invited join the Assembly worship service on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. at the Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel and Convention Center, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank.

The May 9<sup>th</sup> Special Congregation Meeting voted to approve the proposed amendments to the LCM Constitution **and** the Call Committee's recommendation to call Ioan Ittu as pastor.

Ioan Ittu (pronounced 'you-ahn') graduated from Luther Seminary, in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 2009. He has been awaiting an assignment and Call in order to be ordained. Before attending seminary he received a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies from Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah, Washington. In his profile he listed the following as his "Areas of Expertise and Areas of Strength" as follows:

Areas of Expertise	Areas of Strength
1. Self-Care/Family Life	1. Teaching
2. Preaching/Worship Leadership	2. Inter-personal Climate
3. Recruit and Equip Leaders	3. Stewardship
4. Strategic Mission Planning	4. Ministry in Crisis
5. Evangelism/Mission	5. Volunteer Coordination

Ioan Ittu's personal ministry statement in his Rostered Leader's Profile: "I am able to state without doubt that God is leading me to pastoral ministry in a congregation. I enjoy, find health, am competent and have been affirmed in being a pastor. My desire is to serve Christ's mission by the Holy Spirit taking my words as a preacher and organizational leader and making them the Word that creates a saving faith in Jesus. I am healthy in ministry when I hold firmly to: 'Jesus saves, and I do not.'"

Thank you to the Call Committee (Barbara Browning, Kevin, Grant, Richard Levine, and Deborah Warren) for their good work in the process! This is an exciting time for all of us at LCM.



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

In the first four Sundays of May, our congregational giving (including online Simple Giving contributions) totaled \$5,175.00 bringing us to \$45,781.28 general offerings received year-to-date, now \$9,973.42 shy of our annual goal of \$141,775.00. Memory month donations to date total \$2,000.00 (also including Simply Giving offerings, but not included in the \$5,175 general figure). Thank you to the generous and regular contributors. Please consider you giving.

*Emily Jackson-Yano, Financial Secretary*

## MEMORY MONTH

Memory Month is here! We celebrate Mother's Day today. As we do every year between Mother's Day and Father's Day on June 20<sup>th</sup>, we are offered an opportunity to memorialize our parents and others with gifts toward a project chosen by the Council. **The 2010 Memory Month fund has been designated to reimburse the Property Stewardship investment fund for work that has been done to primarily refurbish the exterior of the windows and doors of the Parish House and the sacristy doors of the Sanctuary.** This much-needed work had too long been deferred, leaving the windows without glazing and paint and the doors and frames damaged by the termites that were living and eating in the wood. The Council decided the work could be put off no longer and to pay for the work with a loan taken from our Property Stewardship fund. The work has been proceeding over the past few months, but there is more to be done. Feel free to compare the refurbished windows and door in the back of the house with the "unrefurbished" front door and living room windows. If we receive more contributions than the \$2,500.00 on loan from Property Stewardship, we can continue the work that otherwise will need to be postponed at least until next year. \$2,000.00 has been received to date. Please consider donating to this year's Memory Month project! Your generosity (if you wish) will be acknowledged in the bulletin and Master's Notes.

### **Thank you:**

- Barbara Browning - in memory of her mother and father, Elva and Albert Browning
- Emma Lou Candow - in memory of loved ones
- Bettijune Fanning - in memory of her family, Mike, Peggy, and Carolyn Harthan
- Russell Fung - in memory of his mother, Maria Fung
- Tom Jacobson - in memory of his father, Eugene Jacobson
- Sara McGah - in memory of her parents, Tom and Russella
- Pastor Robert Richards - in memory of Stephen Eddy Richards
- Deborah and John Warren - in memory of John's brother, Bill Warren
- Ty Woodward
- Bryan and Nancy Yamasaki - in memory of Nancy's father, Don Schultz and in memory of Bryan's father, Hiromi Yamasaki
- David York - in honor of Sara McGah

*Contributions received as of May 23, 2010.  
Please notify the office of necessary corrections.*

## 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 lessons we will hear in worship. 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!

## WORSHIP-ART-MUSIC NEWS

It's been a season of change in the worship and music life of LCM. New pastors and new organists and choir directors have not only brought variety to our worship but also a sense of excitement. David York joined us in September as interim organist/choirmaster, and then was called in January to the interim position at St. John's Cathedral. Since January, David has continued to choose our worship music and prepare the choir, while Nancy Ruczynski has stepped in on Sundays to play the organ and piano and direct the choir during worship. Nancy really 'rocked' with the choir, drums, and bass guitar for the GOSPEL MASS on Pentecost. Galina Barskaya brought us through Holy Week - Easter and brass choir and all! Dale Von Seggern filled in several Sundays, also. All this has been a real feat of coordination and cooperation! **Many thanks** to David, Nancy, Galina, and Dale. **Most of all**, we thank the choir for bringing their talents and diligence to enhance our worship - Tina, Alexis, Kelci, Barbara, Kaitlyn, Nancy, Sara, Pastor Richards, Tom, Joshua, Russell, Dory, Griffith, Ralph, Sergey, and Pastor White.

The church has been the venue for musical presentations during the year - the City of Angels Children's Choir, the Catgut Trio, the Chamber Music Players of Los Angeles, and Sergey's UCLA junior recital. The Ensemble Studio Theatre of LA presented their prepared readings. and its Playwrights Unit meets regularly in the Parish House.

The next event will be the spring concert of the City of Angels Children's Choir on Sunday, June 13th at 4 p.m. under the direction of Nancy Ruczynski. Nancy rehearses her choir here each week at LCM - teaching the essentials of music and singing. There's nothing better than watching and hearing children learn the fun and reward in singing. You won't want to miss it!



### FLOWER CHART

June 6	Ron and Robin Nickel, in honor of Joshua's birthday.
June 13	Open
June 20	Barbara Browning, in memory of her mother and father Elva and Albert Browning.
June 27	Emily Jackson-Yano, in honor of her parents' 50 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

## 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, Marilyn Feiman** (sister-in-law of Charles Peruchini), **Marlys Gunderson** (mother of John and Paul Gunderson), **Pastor Nancy Hamm** (Christ Lutheran Church, Downey), **Chris Jackson** (nephew of Emily Jackson-Yano), **Lois Jackson** (mother of Emily Jackson-Yano), **Pastor Ray Kibler, 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), **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 Willms, Mary Ann Wright** (sister of Millie Rojas), **Members of the AA Groups**, and **All Churches in the LA Metro Conferences**

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 23rd Annual Assembly of the Southwest California Synod, ELCA, will meet beginning Thursday. Pastor White, Millie Rojas, and Joshua Nickel will represent Church of The Master as delegates. The theme of the Assembly is "Listen, God is Calling". We look forward to their reports.

## FLOWERS

There are still Sundays open for flower donations. Please consider donating the altar flowers for worship. If you wish to memorialize someone or an event, please note that with your name on the flower chart. Just a reminder that the cost is \$15 for a single vase and \$30 for both vases. When paying for the flowers, please include the payment in your offering envelope and make sure to write "flowers" on the envelope.