

The Master's Notes

March 2010

Lutheran Church of The Master

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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The Reverend Ronald White, Interim Pastor



THE JOURNEY OF LENT

We are in the midst of the season of Lent, a season of preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. The 40 days of Lent do not include Sundays, hence the Sundays of the Lenten season are actually Sundays in Lent, rather than of Lent.

The Gospel readings for the Sundays in Lent, with the exception of the temptation of Jesus on the First Sunday, are accounts of conversations Jesus has with people and teachings as he journeys to Jerusalem. Lent is often referred to as a journey to the cross, and ultimately to the resurrection. The quality of a journey is usually dependent to a large degree on the amount of thought and preparation that has gone into it. It is clear from the Gospels that Jesus had put a great deal of preparation into his Jerusalem journey. As disciples of Jesus, it is incumbent upon us to do the same.

The season of Lent prepares us for the observance of the death of Jesus on Good Friday and the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. How meaningful the observance of those two events will be for us is largely dependent on how we have prepared for them. That is certainly not to suggest that we all need to prepare in the same way. What is a meaningful practice for one person, such as fasting, may not be helpful for another. We do, however, need to be intentional about our preparation, just as we are intentional about planning, packing, and preparing for a trip.

One of the laments I have often heard in recent years from people is that they are overwhelmed by the busyness in their lives. They are so busy with work, organizations, schedules, home chores, etc., that they never take time to reflect on their priorities and the things that are most important, and those things that can be eliminated in order to concentrate on the things that are most important in their use of time and attention. They go from one day to the next enslaved by obligations without evaluating whether these are worth their time. Lent is a good time to evaluate our lives and ask ourselves about

our priorities in our use of our time, abilities, and financial resources. At least periodically, our lives need a spiritual spring cleaning.

How is your Lenten journey going? I pray that it is preparing you well for Good Friday and Easter.

*In Christ,
Pastor Ron*

P.S.- I would like to thank the Church Council and the congregation for your prayers on my behalf for my recent surgery and the graciousness with which you have welcomed me as your Interim Pastor. I am looking forward to our ministry together as you transition to a new pastor.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through February, our congregational giving (including Vanco) was \$6,743.15 for the month of February, which brings us to \$21,548.68 year-to-date. We are at 15.2% towards our annual goal of \$141,775, or (\$2,989.30) behind in our giving year-to-date goal we recently set ourselves in the new budget. Thanks for the generosity and regularity of your giving.

Emily Jackson-Yano, Financial Secretary

OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP WILL BE AT MT. OLIVE !!! MARCH 21ST - L. A. MARATHON

Lutheran Church of The Master has the dubious distinction of being the only church in Los Angeles by which the L. A. Marathon will pass on Sunday morning, March 21st. The route down Santa Monica Boulevard will close the Boulevard, as well as the access to our parking until at least noon. So, we have accepted a gracious invitation to worship that morning at 11:00 a.m. with our sister congregation, Mt. Olive Lutheran, in Santa Monica at 1343 Ocean Park Boulevard (at 14th Street).

STATUS OF THE CALL PROCESS

The Call Committee has received 4 profiles of pastors interested in a call as a parish pastor. At this time the committee is in the process of reviewing the profiles and arranging for interviews. 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

BACH BIRTHDAY BASH

We can stay over in Santa Monica after worship on March 21st for Mt. Olive's 2nd Annual Bach Birthday Bash in celebration of J. S. Bach's 325th birthday. Pat Maimone, Organist -Choir Director, and the Mt. Olive choir will present the concert a 3:00 p.m. Cake and ice cream will served after the concert.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm/Passion Sunday - Sunday, March 28 - 11:00 a.m.

Maundy 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

PLANTER BOXES

The Council has approved the installation of two "water harvesting" planter boxes here at the church. The planters are part of a grant program which provides various water saving and water 'cleaning' projects in the city at no cost to selected property owners. The planters are being installed 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 into the new planters, watering the plants and filtering and 'cleaning' the water before releasing it into the parking lot and city storm drains.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

The February-April edition of the Forward Day by Day devotional booklet is available in the pew racks and the narthex. **Please take one!** We have discontinued mailing them to save postage and will be ordering the Augsburg devotion booklets for the next quarter.

U. S. CENSUS BUREAU

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting temporary, part-time census takers for the 2010 Census. These short-term jobs offer good pay, flexible hours, paid training, and reimbursement for authorized work-related expenses, such as mileage incurred while conducting census work. Best of all, census takers work right in their own communities. Census taker jobs are excellent for people who want to work part-time, those who are between jobs, or just about anyone who wants to earn extra money while performing an important service for their community.

Tests are being given every Tuesday afternoon in March from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Practice tests are available here in the church office. For more information, contact Robin Nickel in the church office,

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 Gospel of Mark, the source of our current Gospel texts. The ELCA and our Synod have committed to the initiative: "**Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible**" and we will start to use 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

March 7	Open
March 14	In honor of Julie Johnson's birthday
March 21	Barbara Browning, in honor of Mrs. Candow's birthday
March 28	Open

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), **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), **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**