

# The Master's Notes

May 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**

### **AFTER I SAY "I BELIEVE"**

Stewardship is a word that evokes a strong response from many members of Christian congregations. For some, stewardship is a reminder that the good news of God's love for them in Jesus Christ requires a response. For others, stewardship conjures thoughts of the church's only interest being people's money. What is Christian stewardship?

A steward is defined in Webster's Dictionary as "one employed in a large household or estate to manage domestic concerns (as the supervision of servants, collection of rents, and keeping of accounts)." In other words, a steward is not the owner of that which they have been given supervision over, but rather the manager of it. Christian stewardship begins with the truth that all that we are and have is a gift from God. Because it is a gift, it is not ours to do with as we please, but to use as it is intended by the gift-giver, God. Stewardship is not only about our money and what we give to the church. It is concerned with all our resources—money, time, talents, and abilities, and how we use them. There are many definitions of stewardship, but the one which resonates the strongest with me is "Stewardship is everything I do after I say, 'I believe.'"

There are four biblical principals of stewardship. They are:

1. Biblical giving is first-fruits giving. This means that which I give to God's work is not to be from what is leftover, but to come off the top.
2. It is intentional. While there may be occasions when I give on the spur of the moment to a good cause, I commit myself to a plan of giving.
3. It is proportionate. Many congregations now use Commitment Cards which encourage members to make a pledge of a per-centage of their income instead of a specific dollar amount. Thus, if their income

goes up, their giving increases, and if their income goes down, their giving decreases. The average member of U. S. congregations gives 2.2% of their income to their church. If all increased their giving by 1% of their income, it would increase the congregation's income almost 50%. It is sacrificial. In other words, my giving should be the result of my giving up something. A member of a congregation told her pastor that she would like to be able to give more to her church, but she went on four cruises each year, and they were really expensive. This is a true story.

Our giving is an expression of our faith. We not only give to needs, we need to give. Lutheran Church of the Master is dependent upon its members' financial gifts in order to carry out its ministry of Word and Sacrament, education, music, property, and service in our community. Without the support of members with time, talent, and money, the work of this congregation cannot happen. But we also need to give as an expression of our trust in God as the giver of all that we are and have, and our responsibility as managers of that which we have been given. Our stewardship reveals a great deal about our faith.

May the resurrection give you power as you seek to live as a faithful steward of Christ!

*Pastor Ron*

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

In April, our congregational giving (including online contributions) totaled \$7,683.50 bringing us to \$40,606.28 offerings received year-to-date, or at 28.64% (\$6,652.05) 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*

## SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>

The Council of the Congregation and the Call Committee of the Congregation have called a Special Congregation Meeting immediately following worship on May 9, 2010, to consider two important issues: 1) the proposed amendments to the LCM Constitution, and 2) the Call Committee's recommendation to call **Ioan Ittu** as our pastor. **Ioan** (pronounced: 'you-an') **Ittu** is awaiting assignment in order to become an Ordained Minister. He graduated from Luther Seminary in 2009. Please attend this important meeting. This is an exciting time for all of us at LCM.

## PROPERTY MAINTENANCE UPDATES

The Parish House living room was painted last Saturday and is beautiful - good color choice! Many thanks to Maria, Kevin, Josh, Steve, and Amanda for their volunteer hours, and to Maria for a great lunch. You, too, can enjoy painting - next will be the dining room. Watch for the announcement! The long hours of work by Steve Newberry and Joshua Nickel are now finished. Check out the windows and doors along the west side of the building! All, along with the Pastor's sacristy outside door, have been refreshed - sanded, re-glazed, and painted. The Parish House back door required major surgery with a new door jamb frame - the old wood was riddled with termite damage (see pictures in Parish House). The upstairs west windows are now repaired - water and termite damage, deferred maintenance of glazing, and cable problems had left the windows in terrible and leaky condition. The windows are back in place and look great. Thanks to John Gunderson for his help getting started with these windows. And, a big thank you to Steve and Josh for all their good work.

## "GOSPEL MASS" PENTECOST - MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>

For worship on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the choir will offer excerpts of "**Gospel Mass**" in celebration of Pentecost. "**Gospel Mass**" was written in 1978 by Robert Ray, a music educator now on the faculty of the University of Missouri at St. Louis. The choir will be accompanied by piano, percussion, and electric bass.

## MOVING ON...

Three members are leaving us: Gloria Spellmeier and Sandy Chamorro transferred this week to Gloria's new consulate assignment in Armenia. Russell Fung will return to Milwaukee at the end of May to continue his post-graduate in biophysics work at the University of Wisconsin. We will miss them and pray their new lives will be blessed with health and fulfillment.

## 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!

## FLOWER CHART

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| May 2  | Open   |
| May 9  | Open   |
| May 16 | Amanda Bialek,<br>In honor of her first wedding anniversary. |
| May 23 | Charles Peruchini,<br>in memory of Alice Brannvall birthday. |
| May 30 | 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**, **Bettijune Fanning**, **Marilyn Feiman** (sister-in-law of Charles Peruchini), **Arne Foss**, **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), **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 Willms**, **Mary Ann Wright** (sister of Millie Rojas), **Members of the AA Groups**, and **All Churches in the LA Metro Conferences**