

Master's Notes
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JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m.	3 Choir Rehearsal 7:45-9 p.m.	4	5 Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.
6 Bible Study 9:45-10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Luther Bells 12:30 pm Compline 8:30 p.m.	7	8 Church Council Meeting 7:30 p.m. AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m.	9 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m.	10 Choir Rehearsal 7:45-9 p.m.	11	12 Men's Bible Breakfast at Mt Olive 8:00 a.m. No Confirmation Class
13 Bible Study 9:45-10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 am ting Luther Bells 12:30 pm Compline 8:30 p.m.	14	15 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m.	16 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m.	17 Worship & Music 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:45-9 p.m.	18	19 No Confirmation Class
20 ANNUAL MEETING OF CONGREGATION	21	22 Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m.	23 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m.	24 Choir Rehearsal 7:45-9 p.m.	25	26 No Confirmation Class
27 Bible Study 9:45-10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 am ting Luther Bells 12:30 pm Compline 8:30 p.m.	28	29 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m.	30 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m.	31 Choir Rehearsal 7:45-9 p.m.	JANUARY BIRTHDAYS Frances Carter Kaitlyn Nickel Jeremy Nickel January 2 January 8 January 18	

The Master's Notes



January 2008

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a Reconciling in Christ congregation
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 John Rollefson - Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR

EPIPHANY

Epiphany is the day on the church's calendar that always falls on January 6 marking traditionally the "manifestation" or "revealing" of the baby Jesus to the magi. The Eastern Church celebrates this occasion as Orthodox Christmas but for us westerners Epiphany marks the end or 12 day of Christmas. This year, since January 6th falls on a Sunday, we will be able to celebrate the Epiphany at our 11 AM service and will do so using a Lessons & Carols for Epiphany liturgy that features the singing of many of our favorite Christmas and Epiphany

carols.

The Sundays following the day of the Epiphany constitute a sort of in-between season bridging Christmas and Lent, which this year comes early with Ash Wednesday falling on February 6th. As has become customary we'll mark the beginning of our 40 day trek to Holy Week and Easter with our full communion neighbors at Westwood Hills Congregational Church at a service of holy communion and the imposition of ashes.

It's fitting that as Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the nations (symbolized by the visit of the magi from the East) we should recently this Christmas season have been visited by a number of folks from distant places as diverse as Egypt, Brazil, Turkey and even Iowa! This is a dimension of our hospitality to strangers that I think deserves to be celebrated for the way in which it enriches our community and reminds us of our intention to be "a house of prayer for all people." The fact that non-Christian folks of Jewish and Muslim background also testify to the warm welcome they feel when attending our worship and coffee time is further confirmation of the important fruit of our efforts at hospitality, which, remember, means "love for the stranger."

Just last week I received an e-mail from one of those "strangers" we welcomed into our midst earlier last year and who left our midst as a good friend—a good friend who was there to welcome Ruth and me to Germany when we landed at Frankfurt Airport. Klaus Freitag sends "*big wishes of merry Christmas to all of you. God bless you.*" Klaus. I like his inventive use of English in sending us "big wishes of merry Christmas."

May this Epiphany-time be big with opportunities for all of us to practice our commitment to hospitality to strangers.

Big wishes for a happy Epiphany,

Pastor John

THANK YOU

Ruth and I extend our Christmas greetings to all as well as our thanks for the Christmas cards and gifts received. We're most grateful.

Pastor John

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual budget meeting of the congregation to adopt the 2008 budget will be held following worship on Sunday, January 20th. The Council has concluded its work in revising the congregation's constitution to bring it into conformity with the ELCA's "model constitution" and members have received the proposal to review before the congregation's initial consideration at the budget meeting on January 20th.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

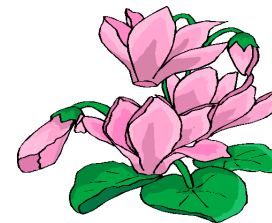
Through Sunday, December 30th, the last Sunday of the 2007 fiscal year, we have received a total of \$132,159.00 in the General account offering or nearly 98% of the \$135,000 budgeted for the year. Congratulations and deepest thanks for your generous giving which also included additional gifts in these last weeks to the ELCA Hunger Appeal, The Heifer Project, Compline, and our Christmas Eve orchestra. Please to pick up your 2008 offering envelopes if not have not yet done so.

COMPLINE

Compline, our beautiful Sunday evening service of prayer at the close of the day continues every Sunday evening at 8:30 p.m. Led by LCM-er Deke Erdmann, Compline features the chants and anthems of the professional men's choir, The Master's Consort. Come, "Listen to the quiet!"

IN MEMORIAM

We have received word that Robin Lou Archia passed from this life on December 21, 2007 at 53 years of age. Robin was baptized by Pastor Richards and joined Lutheran Church of The Master in 1988. She served faithfully on altar guild and was a good friend to many in this congregation. She moved to Chicago in the '90's and had recently completed her academic preparation to be a veterinarian. We pray God's comfort for her family and friends.



FLOWER CHART

January 6	Open
January 13	Open
January 20	Open
January 27	Open



OUR PRAYER LIST

Bill Ashton (cousin of Emily Jackson-Yano), **Jack and Doris Billingsley** (grandparents of Phil Haussmann), **Laura Brodian** (friend of Dave Shelton), **Dolores Brown** (friend of Peggy Anderson), **The Campbell Family** (friend of Dave Shelton), **Cathy Coleman** (friend of Dave Shelton), **Dean Deutmeyer** (friend of Charles Peruchini), **Pat Driscoll** (mother of Julie Johnson), **Frances Illingworth** (friend of Dave Shelton), **Laurel Jones** (also known as Katie Luther), **Judith Kubzansky**, **Summer Lager** (friend of Dave Shelton), **Donna Mae Taylor and her mother** (friends of Dave Shelton), **Pastor Gary Marshall** (Mt. Olive Lutheran, Santa Monica), **The Marshall Family** (friends of Dave Shelton), **Gisela Marx**, **Claudia Patton** (friend of Dave Shelton), **Millie Rojas**, **Gisela Marx**, **Millian Silverberg** (friend of Jacob Ahn), **Patricia Warren** (mother-in-law of Deborah Warren), and **Pastor Bill and Frances Willms**.

PRAYER LIST NOTE: Our prayer list is an important part of our congregation's prayer mission. We publish prayer requests for individuals and concerns here and in the weekly worship bulletin for everyone to refer to for their personal prayers. You are encouraged to continue to bring persons or concerns to worship in the intercessory petition of the prayer of the church.