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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 Worship 11:00 a.m.	3	4 Budget and Finance Earth, Wind & Flour 1776 Westwood Blvd 7:30 p.m. AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m.	5 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m.	6 Choir Rehearsal 7:45-9 p.m.	7	8 Men's Bible Breakfast at Mt Olive 8:00 a.m.
9 Bible Study 9:45-10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Luther Bells 12:30 p	10	11 Council Meeting 7:30 p.m. AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m.	12 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m.	13 Choir Rehearsal 7:45-9 p.m.	14	15 First Meeting Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.
16 Bible Study 9:45-10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Luther Bells 12:30 p	17	18 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m.	19 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m.	20 Worship and Music Meeting 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:45-9 p.m.	21	22 Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.
23 Bible Study 9:45-10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Luther Bells 12:30 p	24	25 Women's Bible Study - Parsonage 7:30 p.m. AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m.	26 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m.	27 Choir Rehearsal 7:45-9 p.m.	28	29 Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.
30 ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY Bible Study 9:45-10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. <i>Anniversary Celebration</i> <i>following the service</i>					SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS Julie Gunderson Sept. 4 John Warren Sept. 8 Emily Jackson Sept. 17	

The Master's Notes



September 2007

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a Reconciling in Christ congregation
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John Rollefson - Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR

DOING WHATEVER WE WANT TO DO

Being back on "the job" now for just a week after our wonderful three month sabbatical, we're delighted to find ourselves back amid quite changed circumstances. Thanks to all who not only made our time away possible but managed to make it a time when long-anticipated changes in our church campus have more than begun but are well on their way to completion. Especially Robin, Sara, Josh, John G., and Barbara are due our special thanks for putting in countless hours. Now the fun part begins as we see our freshly landscaped parking lot and park-like gathering area take shape including the planting of our memory-month-funded "trophy tree." Anybody with ideas as to the kind of tree we ought to select please send them on to Barbara.

(continued)

As I think I mentioned in this space before leaving on May 15, Sabbath simply means "to stop," to stop one's ordinary routine and preoccupations and to experience the gift of God-given time. Ruth and I developed a little comedy routine during our three months of sabbatical in which, every once in a while, we'd come up with a good idea for something special to do, and if we agreed on doing it, we'd turn to one another, grin and say, "We're on sabbatical. We can do whatever we want to do!" Now that's an exaggeration, of course, but sabbatical, like the Sabbath, is essentially a time of freedom from the "oughts" and "shoulds" and "need to's" that tend to dominate our everyday workaday routines. As an old campus ministry friend of mine once entitled his book on incorporating Sabbath into everyday life, we all need to be able to "catch our breath." Ruth and I can testify that our three months away was indeed a time in which we "caught our breath" and enjoyed the gift of Sabbath freedom that we are all meant to enjoy on a regular and at the very least, a weekly basis - as the third commandment doesn't just "suggest" but, well, "commands."

Work, of course, is also God's good gift, but the gift of Sabbath rest is necessary to create the appropriate rhythm of life. Workaholism - addiction to work - is a disease particularly rampant in the US where people work longer hours with less vacation than nearly anywhere else in the world. In fact, in good Lutheran terms, workaholism is a particularly insidious form of works righteousness, the idolatrous idea that we are somehow justified by our work. That's both dangerous thinking and dangerous practice.

I hope Ruth and I will have multiple opportunities in these coming weeks to share stories from our sabbatical time away of what we did and learned and experienced. But even more I hope we give evidence in our behavior of a freshly found appreciation for and devotion to God's good gift of Sabbath.

Cheers. Pastor John

BIBLE STUDY

At least three opportunities for Bible Study are available to members and friends of LCM. Every Second Saturday from 8-9:30 a.m. a Men's Bible Study meets over breakfast at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica, at 14th and Ocean Park Blvd. Pastor

John leads this gathering in which men from several congregations participate. We are currently studying the Letter to the Galatians. Our gathering in September is scheduled for Saturday, September 8th.

Also monthly, a Women's Bible Study meets in the parsonage facilitated by Ruth Rollefson. Using the ELCW Bible Study written by Professor Martha Stortz of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary which is found in the monthly Lutheran Woman Today magazine, this study is also available at www.lutheranwomantoday.org. Beginning with a September study on the Beatitudes of Jesus from Matthew 5, the first session is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 25th.

Finally, weekly Bible study occurs on Sundays before worship from 9:45-10:15 a.m. at the round table in the back of the sanctuary. Pastor John leads us chapter by chapter through selected books of the Old and New Testament. We will begin the Sunday after Labor Day, September 9th.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of Sunday, August 26, eight months of the way through our fiscal year, we have received a total of \$84,647 in regular offerings or 62.7% of the \$135,000 budgeted for our entire fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2007. Consequently, we're about \$5,000 behind our plan for giving. Thanks for the generosity of your giving. We also received a total of \$3,679 (including the Thrivent Grant) earlier this summer in memory month gifts which will be used to purchase our special "trophy tree" for our new parking lot/garden area.

Soon you will be receiving a mailing announcing our special anniversary Sunday which will be celebrated during worship on Sunday, September 30. As we celebrate the 67th anniversary of our congregation we will also be participating in the centennial celebration of Lutheran Campus Ministry which is occurring throughout the church. This year's special anniversary offering will be given as a special 100th anniversary gift from our congregation to the work of Lutheran Campus Ministry within the State of California.

Pastor John currently serves as a synod representative on the Tri-Synod State Campus Ministry Board.

PROPERTY

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We celebrate the fact that we received our permits from the City of Los Angeles on August 17th. We owe John Gunderson, our contractor and Bud Skibitzke, our architect a world of thanks. Paving of the parking lot will most likely begin this coming week. The parking lot will remain closed until the asphalt paving is completed and cured. Sunday street parking on Kelton, north of the alley, is BY-PERMIT-ONLY. Park in the extra lot - next to Exxon in the block west of Veteran. Enter from the alley just north of Santa Monica Boulevard.

We pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and His blessing in this work. Please feel free to call me with any questions you may have regarding the project. Thank you for your continued support of this long awaited project!

*Barbara Browning
President of the Congregation*

JAMES TAULBEE IN RECITAL

James Taulbee will be playing in the *Bach's Lunch Recitals* series at Trinity Lutheran Church, Manhattan Beach, on Friday, September 7th, at 12:15 p.m. The half hour recital is free and box lunches are available following the performance. Trinity Lutheran is at 1340 Eleventh Street - three blocks east of Sepulveda and one block south of Manhattan Beach Blvd.

THE CHOIR IS BACK

We welcome James and the choir back into the choir loft September 9th with the first rehearsal on September 6th, 7:45 - 9:00 p.m. We invite interested singers to join the choir - we have room and robes! James has been busy planning the new season - buying new music and hiring instrumentalists for special music - and our great section leaders are all due to return to sing another year. Telemann, Buxtehude, Kodaly, Saint Saens will provide special music for Reformation and All Saints Sundays (October 28th and November 4th) and for Christmas Eve (Monday, December 24th). And don't miss Anniversary Sunday - surprises await us on Campus Ministry Sunday. AND - BIG thank yous to Barbara and Ruth for their music and support this summer during James' vacation!

COMPLINE

Compline, our beautiful Sunday evening service of prayer at the close of the day will return on Sunday, October 7, 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. A special reception will be held following Compline on the 7th.

FLOWER CHART

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| Sept. 2 | Peggy Hullman,
in memory of Isabelle Speich's birthday. |
| Sept. 9 | Sarah and Dave Knickerbocker,
in honor of their anniversary. |
| Sept. 16 | Sara McGah,
in memory of her mother Russella. |
| Sept. 23 | Amanda Bartz,
in honor of her nephew's 1st birthday. |
| Sept. 30 | Dave Shelton,
in honor and respect for LCM. |

OUR PRAYER LIST

Bill Ashton (cousin of Emily Jackson-Yano), **Jack and Doris Billingsley** (grandparents of Phil Haussmann), **The Campbell Family** (friends of Dave Shelton), **Cathy Deutmeyer and her brother Dean** (friends of Charles Peruchini), **Pat Driscoll** (mother of Julie Johnson), **The Family and Friends of Mary Duffy** (who passed from this life in June), **Maxine Jacobson** (mother of Tom Jacobson), **Laurel Jones** (also known as Katie Luther), **Judith Kubzansky, Summer Lager** (friend of Dave Shelton), **Donna Mae Taylor** (friend of Dave Shelton), **Pastor Gary Marshall** (Mt. Olive Lutheran, Santa Monica), **The McCurdy Family** (friends of Dave Shelton), **Claudia Patton** (friend of Dave Shelton), **Patricia Warren** (mother-in-law of Deborah Warren), and **Pastor Bill 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.