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11/30/07

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.
2 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.	3	4 Third 2008 Budget Meeting 7:45 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 am & Congregation Meeting Luther Bells 12:30 pm Compline 8:30 p.m.	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 Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study Tea 2:00 p.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 Compline 8:30 p.m.	17	18 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m.	19 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m.	20 Choir Rehearsal 7:45-9 p.m.	21	22
23 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. followed by Parsonage Open House Compline 8:30 p.m.	24 <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i> Christmas Eve Service 8:00 p.m.	25 <i>CHRISTMAS DAY</i> Worship 11:00 a.m. AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m.	26 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m.	27	28	29
30 Worship 11:00 a.m. Compline 8:30 p.m.	31 <i>NEW YEAR'S EVE</i>				Mark Wischkaemper Ray Fanning Dee Nickel Wayne Wetts Sarah Foss	DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS December 14 December 14 December 22 December 22 December 23

The Master's Notes



December 2007

Lutheran Church of The Master
a Reconciling in Christ congregation
 10931 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025
 (310) 473-1055 Fax (310) 478-7805
lutheran.churchofthemaster.org
lutheranchurchofthemaster@juno.com
 John Rollefson - Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR

ADVENT IS COMING!

A new Advent hymn in ELW begins:

*Each winter as the year grows older,
 We each grow older, too.
 The chill sets in a little colder;
 The verities we knew
 Seem shaken and untrue.*

Even here in sunny LA we're now finding it necessary to turn the church furnace on Sunday mornings and the days certainly are growing shorter. And, as always, the texts we hear this end-time and beginning-time of the church year

remind us of the transience of life on this earth, even as we warm our hopes at the promise of Jesus' coming again. And so we go on to sing:

*Yet I believe beyond believing
That life can spring from death,
That growth can flower from our grieving,
That we can catch our breath
And turn transfixed by faith.*

Advent is that season at the outset of the church year in which we realistically face the grim realities of our world “*when race and class cry out for treason, when sirens call for war*” while at the same time preparing to sing once again the great good news of “*God’s love (come) to birth*” in the baby Jesus. And so this becomes a season of “warming up” to sing the joyful news of Christmas that nonetheless is mingled with our knowing what looms ahead for this child grown to manhood:

*O Child of ecstasy and sorrows,
O Prince of peace and pain,
Brighten today’s world by tomorrow’s,
Renew our lives again;
Lord Jesus come and reign!*

Please make good use of these four weeks of Advent to prepare for Christ’s coming among us at Christmas. Be as regular as you’re able at worship (including our beautiful Sunday evening Compline) and join us on Christmas Eve beginning at 8 PM for our choir’s Christmas cantata followed by our lovely candlelit Service of Lessons & Carols. And then join us Christmas Day morning at 11 AM for our carol-filled Festival Service of Holy Communion. We will complete our twelve day celebration of Christmas on Sunday, January 6th, the Day of the Epiphany (the day that celebrates the arrival of the three Magi at the Bethlehem manger), with yet another Service of Lessons & Carols, this featuring favorite Epiphany carols.

Pastor John Rollefson

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

The Rollefson’s annual Christmas open house will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, December 23rd. Please come next door to the parsonage to partake of some traditional holiday goodies!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing church council and congregational president will be held following worship on Sunday, December 9th. The annual budget meeting of the congregation to adopt the 2008 budget will be held following worship on Sunday, January 20th. The Council has nearly concluded its work in revising the congregation’s constitution to bring it into conformity with the ELCA’s “model constitution” and hopes to have a draft ready for the congregation’s initial consideration at the budget meeting on January 20th.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through Sunday, November 25th, with just five Sundays left in the current fiscal year, we have received a total of \$118,922 in general account offerings or 88% of the \$135,000 budgeted for this fiscal year. This leaves us approximately \$3,000 behind our plan for giving. Please be as generous as you are able in your offerings through the end of our fiscal year on December 31st. Please use the Christmas offering envelope you will soon be receiving to make a special year end gift. Your congregation is grateful for all of your giving, regular and designated, throughout the year.

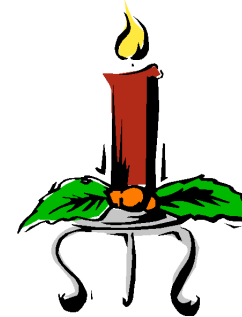
Also please remember to return your commitment card for 2008 by dropping it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office. Many thanks.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

7:00-8:30 p.m. - Wednesday Evenings in Advent at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church.

Prepare for Christ’s Coming with the Gospel According to St. Matthew.

Mt. Olive’s mid-week Advent services - December 5th, 12th, and 19th – will feature a multi-media Vesper Service, showing and discussing Pier Paolo Pasolini’s powerful film, *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*. We will begin the services singing portions of the Holden Evening Vespers and then viewing 1/3 of the film each week (45 min.). Discussion will follow about the movie and the Bible texts on which the movie is based. We will end each service with the opportunity for extended prayer. You are encouraged to read the Gospel of Matthew in advance of the services. Study questions will be available. Join us as we prepare for Christmas and begin the new church year in which our lectionary readings will be taken from the Gospel of Matthew.



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!”

FLOWER CHART

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|-------------|--|
| December 2 | Charles Peruchini, to welcome the birth of a grandson, Alexander James Peruchini, on November 10, 2007 in Chicago. |
| December 9 | Jacob Ahn, in honor of my friend Millian Silverberg. |
| December 16 | Open |
| December 23 | Sarah and Dave Knickerbocker, in honor of Jeremy’s and Rachel’s birthdays. |
| December 30 | Dave Shelton, in honor of Kelli Maroney’s birthday. |

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.