

The Master's Notes

November 2008

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

STEWARDSHIP TIMES THREE

The middle three Sundays of November we hear as our Gospel readings the three successive “end-time” parables of Jesus found in the 25th chapter of Matthew. The first of these is the intriguing story of the Ten Bridesmaids, five of whom were foolish and five wise. Fresh from my string of having presided at three weddings on successive Saturdays (and having preached at the 150th anniversary of a former congregation I served as pastor using Jesus’ parable of the king’s wedding banquet), I’m newly sensitive to the power of the wedding metaphor to evoke our relationship with God and the promise of God’s reign. This parable of the Ten Bridesmaids was a favorite subject in Christian art and one used by Jesus to make vivid to his hearers the urgency of being prepared at every moment for the in breaking of God’s reign.

Matthew 25’s second parable of Jesus is the more familiar parable of the Talents that a rich man going on a journey allots to his three slaves, “to each according to his ability.” You know the story of how the first two slaves who are given five and two talents respectively (a “talent” being an extraordinarily large sum of money) prudently invested their master’s money, effectively doubling its value. The master, upon his return, commends his slaves and because they have proven “trustworthy” expands their responsibilities. But the third slave to whom had been entrusted “only” one talent did nothing with his talent but bury it in the ground out lest he lose it, fearing the wrath of his master. “You wicked and lazy slave!” the master responds angrily, taking away from him his talent and throwing him out. The clear message is “use” or “lose” what God has entrusted to us.

The third parable, which we will hear on Reign of Christ Sunday, the last Sunday of the church year, is the Parable of the Last Judgment in which the criteria for determining who will be “blessed” or “cursed” by the Son of Man when he comes in his glory is whether or not the hungry have been fed and the thirsty given something to drink, strangers welcomed, the naked clothed, the sick

taken care of, and the imprisoned visited. For, Jesus says, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” This sets before us clearly our calling as Christians not to be “religious” in some special way but to serve the needs of the neediest of our sisters and brothers knowing that Jesus has promised to be present to us in our loving actions.

All three of these end-time parables address what it is that we followers of Jesus are to do with urgency in this critical “end-time” in which we live of which our nation’s and now our world’s ongoing financial crisis only serves to heighten our awareness of our behaviors’ urgency. We are to be, in short, good stewards of what God has entrusted to us and for which God holds us responsible—financial and physical resources which are not finally our own but with which we are to be generous, charitable and even urgent in their use for the benefit especially of those in need. It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to “get” Jesus’ parables. It only takes ears to hear and God’s gift of faith to respond in becoming the trustworthy stewards God wants us to become.

Please respond generously to our upcoming Stewardship Appeal as you consider prayerfully making your financial commitment to giving in support of your congregation’s mission for this coming year. You are asked to return your commitment card (which you are receiving in this mailing) for Stewardship Sunday, by November 16th.

Pastor John

TIME CHANGE

Reminder: Set your clocks one hour back, tonight, Saturday, November 1st. Worship will begin at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Standard Time, on Sunday, November 2nd!!

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

To commemorate All Saints' Sunday (November 2), the choir will join with an orchestra to sing the Requiem by John Rutter. James Taulbee will conduct and singers from the choir will sing the solos. Rutter's **Requiem** (1985) is a very lyrical setting of an adaptation of the Roman Catholic Requiem Mass, with Psalm and Book of Common Prayer texts interspersed with the Mass liturgy.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through these first ten months of the current fiscal year, with just nine Sundays remaining, we have received a total of \$116,540 or 86% of our budgeted goal for general offering of \$135,000. Thanks for the regularity and generosity of your giving. And please remember too our special Thanksgiving emphasis on giving to the ELCA Hunger Appeal.

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 Deke Erdmann of Lutheran Church of The Master, Compline features the chants and anthems of the professional men's choir, The Master's Consort. Come, "Listen to the quiet!" These services are supported by donations and by the Lutheran Church of The Master Foundation. Donations may be made anytime - note "Compline" on the offering envelope or in the memo line of your check.

The Master's Consort will be hosting a fund-raiser on Sunday, November 23rd at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and to support Compline.

THE FRIENDLY HOUR: EXTENDED!

Tom Jacobson's play **was just extended two more weeks!!** "The Friendly Hour" is a story based on the actual minutes of a women's club formed in rural South Dakota in 1934. As the promotional brochure describes it, "This poignant comedy charts 70 years of personal and national history—from skinning skunks and julebukking in the 30's to restoring the native prairie in the new millennium." Join these fascinating women as they laugh, cry, and share their lives at the monthly gathering that they call "The Friendly Hour." The play is scheduled to run Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., **now until Saturday, November 15th** at the Road Theatre at the Lankershim Arts Center, 5108 Lankershim Boulevard in North Hollywood.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling (866) 811-4111 or online at www.roadtheatre.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

Jacob Ahn November 5
Mary Savage November 29

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, has invited us to worship with them on Thanksgiving Day. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m. followed by dinner for all. Mt. Olive will provide turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy. They invite everyone to bring a favorite side dish to share. Mt. Olive is located at 1343 Ocean Park Blvd. at 14th Street. If you want to help, have any questions, or need directions to the church, please call our office.

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSIC

A heads-up for our Christmas worship: Pastor and James and the choir are planning a service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve. The Worship-Arts-Music committee hopes to add a trumpet and harp to the ensemble to accompany the special music. We will need to pay the instrumentalists a total of between \$400 and \$600. This is an opportunity to support the choir and the Christmas Eve worship. You may contribute by marking your check or offering

OUR PRAYER LIST

Don Anderson, Frankie Arknett (uncle of Julie Johnson), **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), **Lois Bykiewicz** (sister of Peggy Anderson), **The Campbell Family** (friends of Dave Shelton), **Carmen, Judith Cowie** (aunt of Charles Peruchini), **Cynthia Creasy** (friend of Dave Shelton), **June Foray Donovan** (friend of Dave Shelton), **Pat Driscoll** (mother of Julie Johnson), **Phyllis Gibson, Art Goodman** (friend of Ramone Muñoz), **Chris Jackson** (nephew of Emily Jackson-Yano), **Laurel Jones** (also known as Katie Luther), **Jonathan Kovac** (brother of Deborah Warren), **Jane Peale Lambert** (daughter of Billie Peale), **George Lawther** (relative of Emily Jackson-Yano), **Kim Marie** (friend of Dave Shelton), **Pastor Gary Marshall, Gisela Marx, Carson Pritchard** (friend of Ramone Muñoz), **Jan Rahm** (friend of Charles Peruchini), **Burt Ritter** (friend of Dave and Sarah Knickerbocker), **Millie Rojas, Eddi Ryfterager** (relative of the Nickel family), **Lisa Ann Rollins** (friend of Dave Shelton), **Elia Sripoontanagoon** (friend of Sara McGah), **Jamie Talt** (friend of the Nickel family), **Pastor Bill and Frances Willms, Mark Wischkaemper.**

FLOWER CHART

November 2	Sara McGah, in memory of her father, Tom.
November 9	Amanda Bartz, in honor of her grandmother, Eula Drake.
November 16	Charles Peruchini, in memory of his father's birthday.
November 23	Ruth and John Rollefson, in honor of Mary's birthday
November 30	Lutheran Church of The Master, in memory of Alice Brannvall.