

The Master's Notes

November 2009

Lutheran Church of The Master

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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The Reverend Deborah Andersen, Interim Pastor



FROM THE PASTOR

AHHH, NOVEMBER.

I've never really thought of this before but November is such an important month! Have you given thought to all that November brings? There are all kinds of secular activities in November: changing our clocks, elections, Veterans' Day observations, Thanksgiving parades and family celebrations, much-watched sports events (football and the World Series?!), the commercial push to get us to buy, buy, buy those cards and gifts to exchange in December.

For those of us who also follow a church calendar November provides a rich supply of days. I share from one of our worship-planning resources, *Sundays and Seasons 2009*. We start on November 1 when the time after Pentecost begins to draw to a close with All Saints Day, a reminder that our lives are finite. "We remember our forebears in the faith; whether they died peacefully or tragically, recently or long ago, these Christians are worthy of remembrance and part of the reason we have come this far by faith." And we ponder on the communion of saints and the connection we have to those who have died and those who have been baptized this year in our community of faith.

"As the northern hemisphere grows darker, the seasonal dying of the earth reminds us of our own mortal nature. We ask again, 'Who shall be saved?' and 'What is God's will for us?'" Our Old Testament readings in November provide a theme of God providing for God's people, the New Testament readings remind us of Christ's sacrificial work for our redemption, and the Gospel texts lift up a theme of new life. Together, our Sunday readings remind us of some of the characteristics of faith we want to develop in ourselves: "listening to Jesus; setting others free in Christ; nurturing a love of God in heart, soul, and mind, not just hands; attentiveness to God's ways and promises in the midst of chaos, fear, and want; striving first for the kingdom of God." November really challenges us to think about the activities that nurture our faith: regular intercessory prayer, more Bible reading, offering of praise and adoration, trusting God to provide for our needs, and multiplying the blessings we receive from God.

Just as we see the seasonal changes outside note

the changes in our worship environment in November. The colors of paraments and vestments change almost every Sunday in November as we move from All Saints Day through two "ordinary" Sundays to the culmination of the church year on Christ the King Sunday, and then, the beginning of a new church year with the first Sunday in Advent coming at the end of November. Let each of those changes remind you of God's provision, Christ's sacrifice, and your response of faith and trust in God's gift of grace.

In Christ, Pastor Andersen

MISSION EXPLORATION TEAM (M.E.T.)

REPORT SUMMARY

The M.E.T. committee of Lutheran Church of The Master (LCM) met once a month during the summer to examine the history of our church, identify opportunities to help expand our church community and determine the areas we would like prospective pastors to focus on in order to help maintain and grow the congregation.

Under the direction of Pastor George Tan, the M.E.T. committee was introduced to PERCEPT that provided a demographic breakdown of the communities within the church's zip code (90025). The analysis showed the diversity of groups in the area that include college students, immigrants, couples, "yuppies," and a significant homeless community. It was surprising to see that 54% of households in the area have no faith involvement. The current congregational profile of LCM is a cross section of ages, ethnicities and socioeconomic circumstances. The PERCEPT findings illuminated the group that we can explore the possibility of increased outreach to such as college students and young professionals looking for a "home" and a place to serve.

LCM's has a unique relationship with Music and the Arts. Our sanctuary is regularly open to local theater and music recitals. Church members have written and performed long-running plays with spiritual content and produced a Compline service that ran for two years. The strength, quality and history of our Choir, Music Programs and other artistic activities have served to keep the congregation united, invite new members and generate interest. We seek to leverage this into a spirit driven force for outreach and charitable activities.

STATUS OF THE CALL PROCESS

CONGREGATIONAL WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 15 & 22

The Call Committee met with Agnes McClain, from the Synod Office, on Tuesday, October 27, 2009. As a part of the Call Committee process in calling a new pastor, we need to have a congregational workshop. This workshop requires 2 meetings that need to take place in order to complete our "Congregational Profile" before we can receive any candidate names from Bishop Nelson. A Congregational Profile is a detailed profile of our congregation, congregational composition and needs, neighborhood make-up and needs, future pastoral needs and our mission and vision for the future. There will be 2 sessions led by Agnes McClain. Each meeting will last 45-60 minutes and will be held immediately after church in the Parish House, in conjunction with our coffee hour. The dates selected are November 15 and 22, 2009. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members. We need everyone's participation. If you have any question, please feel free to call Barbara Browning at (310) 393-6844. Our Call Committee members are: Kevin Grant, Deborah Warren, Richard Levine, and Barbara Browning. Please mark your calendars for **November 15th and 22nd**.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our donations totaled \$10,670.44 in October, bringing our year-to-date donations to \$102,578.73. To reach our budget goal of \$146,000 by year's end, we need to have received \$120,730.40, leaving us \$18,251.67 short of our goal. Please be as generous as you can to help us to continue to meet our operating needs! Thank you.

"SPIRITUAL TOOLS FOR TROUBLED TIMES"

A WORKSHOP WITH DR. NANCY C. REEVES

It is always a challenge to find ways to live out our faith in today's complex, fast-paced world. From dealing with loss (anything from chronic illness to financial difficulties), to dealing with personality differences, to sorting out the "-isms" that separate us, to finding ways to work with those who differ from us - whether it's economics, culture, politics or something else - what tools do we need these days?

You are invited to a workshop, "Spiritual Tools for Troubled Times," with Dr. Nancy Reeves, a clinical psychologist, spiritual director and author, who has specialized in loss, grief and trauma for over 30 years. In this workshop we will explore a number of spiritual tools that can help us heal and grow in today's fast-paced, always challenging world. The workshop is designed by congregational lay leaders, pastors, spiritual directors, and anyone else who accompanies others on their spiritual paths. Topics to be included are ways to deal with loss, ways to deal with personality differences, ways to work with those who differ from us, and concepts and issues we can use in listening for and following divine guidance.

The workshop - sponsored by the Metro Los Angeles Conference of our synod (that's our conference!), the New City Parish, and the Metro Ministry and Training Center - will be held at **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** (9300 S. Crenshaw Blvd, Inglewood) on **Saturday, November 14, from 9:30 a.m. to Noon**. A light breakfast will be available at 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$10, or \$5 for students, and there are scholarships available. Pre-registration is recommended at info@newcityparish.org or call (310) 673-2584. Talk to Pastor Andersen if you'd like more information about this workshop.

THANKSGIVING

Come celebrate Thanksgiving! - here at Church of The Master in a worship service and a traditional turkey dinner. Festivities will start at 11:00 a.m. on November 26th. Turkey and dressing, rolls, and potatoes will be provided. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. It would be helpful in our planning, if you would let Robin know you are planning to come.

FLOWER CHART

November 1	Amanda Bartz, in memory of Eula Drake.
November 8	Sara McGah, in memory of Tom.
November 15	Charles Peruchini, in memory of his father's birthday.
November 25	Ruth and John Rollefson, in honor of Mary's birthday.
November 29	Open.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Peggy Anderson

Bill Ashton (cousin of Emily Jackson-Yano)

Dolores Brown (friend of Peggy Anderson)

Lois Bykiewicz (sister of Peggy Anderson)

The Campbell Family (friends of Dave Shelton)

Judith Cowie (aunt of Charles Peruchini)

Donna Crean

Sara Erman (friend of Sarah Knickerbocker)

Pastor Nancy Hamm (Christ Lutheran Church in Downey)

Chris Jackson (nephew of Emily Jackson-Yano)

Lois Jackson (mother of Emily Jackson-Yano)

Jonathan Kovac (brother of Deborah Warren)

Pastor Gary Marshall

Gisela Marx

Derick Metzger (family of Peggy Anderson)

Janice Newberry (family of Steve Newberry)

Marcy Pine

Ed Polite (friend of Robin Nickel)

Eddi Rytterager (friend of the Nickel family)

Jackie Savage

Heidi and Joshua Schilling (friends of Robin Nickel)

Lori Splinter (Vice President of the Synod)

Igor Tashlitskiy

Mary Ann Wright (sister of Millie Rojas)

Frances Willms

The Members of the AA Groups