

The Master's Notes

October 2008

Lutheran Church of The Master

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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FROM THE PASTOR

OCTOBER IS LUTHER-TIME!

For some October is World Series time (especially now that the Dodgers are in the play-offs, not to mention the Angels or the Brewers or the Cubs!). But our October edition of The Lutheran, featuring Martin Luther on the cover in one of his least flattering likenesses, reminds us that this is also the month near the end of which we annually celebrate Reformation Sunday. The actual event we commemorate occurred on October 31st, the Eve of All Saints (known in the U.S. as Halloween from “All Hallow’s Eve”) when legend has it that a young Augustinian monk by the name of Martin Luther posted 95 Theses on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg hoping to debate the conventional teaching and practice of the church of his day which he believed had become corrupted. (Ruth and I had a chance to visit Wittenberg a year ago and saw an engraved replica of the 95 theses on the castle church door). On Reformation Sunday we will be using a special 16th century Lutheran Chorale Service as our liturgy and later that day we will join our fellow west-side Lutherans at Mt. Olive for a special Reformation Sunday play-reading and festival. (See below.)

The Lutheran’s cover article is entitled “Lutheranism 202” which I hope you will read carefully. Another article is entitled “Jesus for President?” which I encourage you to read as preparation for the forum we will be holding the preceding Sunday, October 19th, when we will celebrate our annual Lutheran World Federation Sunday to honor the global dimension of our Lutheran movement. We will be using hymnody and liturgy from around the world in order to celebrate our connections with the nearly 70 million folks who call themselves “Lutheran.”

Following the service that day we will be holding a special forum—particularly appropriate to the scripture texts for the day—when we will discuss the upcoming election including both ballot propositions and the candidates. As Lutheran Christians we are encouraged to see the church as a “community of moral deliberation” in which the world’s most important issues are considered from our perspectives as

people of faith. This certainly does not mean we all arrive at the same political conclusions, remembering Luther’s own quip that he’d rather have a “good Turk” than a “bad Christian” as ruler. We Lutherans in the U.S. hold firmly to the appropriate separation of church and state which continues to be challenged by certain other religious groups with their own partisan political agendas. Nonetheless we firmly adhere to the necessary relationship of faith to life which always includes political issues. We do not believe that churches or their leaders should formally endorse candidates and we’re very careful about suggesting that there is only one Christian response to particular issues. All of this is grist, however, for the “moral deliberation” the church needs to foster in which all voices are welcome.

A good resource you might consult in advance of our conversation on the 19th is found at the ELCA’s website entitled “Called to Be a Public Church: 2008 ELCA Voting and Civic Participation Guide.” Unfortunately the Guide is too long to print for everyone, but take time to consult www.elca.org/advocacy and look for it under “resources.” Also, please feel free to bring with you your California General Election “Voter Information Guide” and any other material that may be helpful. Our ELCA’s Office of Public Policy in Sacramento is also producing material that I hope will be available by the time of our conversation.

Pastor John

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through Sunday, September 28th, three-quarters through our fiscal year, we have received \$103,146.94 in regular offerings or 76.4% of our budgeted goal of \$135,000. Thanks for the generosity and regularity of your giving. Also, we are having our first Budget setting meeting for the year 2009, on October 21st at 7:30 p.m. in the Kelton office. Everyone is welcome to attend and help plan the budget for the new year. Please also let us know if you would like to add something to the budget for the new year?

(EN)COUNTERING THE REFORMATION IN IMAGE, WORD AND FEAST

October 26th: Reformation Sunday
Special joint Westside Lutheran Churches event!

The Lutheran Reformation centered in Wittenberg, Germany in the first half of the 16th century transformed Christian faith and life, shifting the focus of Christians on grace, forgiveness, and equality before God. Friends and foes of the Reformation alike used the arts and media of the day to doggedly promote or vigorously attack reformed ideas and practices. Many of the broadsheets, plays and other art forms used ribald humor and comic exaggeration to make their arguments.

Join members and friends of the Lutheran Churches on the Westside of LA for an entertaining afternoon spent "(En)countering the Reformation in Image Word, and Feast."

2:00p.m. Introductory Lecture

And you thought our campaign commercials were bad? Taking a look at Reformation mud-slinging in broadsheets and popular literature. (Pastor Stephanie Jaeger)

2:30p.m. Play Reading

Inaugural reading of the newly-translated anti-Reformation "comedy" - a secret meeting about the *Tragedy of John Huss*," by Luther-enemy Johann Cochlaeus, featuring the Wittenberg reformers and their wives! (Translated by Pastor Stephanie Jaeger.)

4:00p.m.-6:00p.m. Reformation Day Feast

Featuring roast pig and suitable libations (prepared by Pastor Josh Elliot-McGuffie)

Sponsored by *Lutheran Church of the Master—L.A., Mt. Olive Lutheran Church—Santa Monica, and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church—L.A.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

Paul Gunderson	October 1
David Durston	October 13
John Rollefson	October 13
Richard Levine	October 22
Sara McGah	October 27

THE FRIENDLY HOUR

Tom Jacobson's newest play is being presented by the Road Theatre Company, 5108 Lankershim Boulevard in North Hollywood, where two of his previous recent hits, "Bunbury" and "Ouroboros" also premiered. "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 Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. until November 1st. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling (866) 811-4111 or online at www.roadtheatre.org (use code "Hourpre" to get a special discount).

OUR PRAYER LIST

Don Anderson, **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), **Betty Butler**, **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), **Janet 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 Rytterager** (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

October 5	Bettijune and Ray Fanning, in honor of their 34 th anniversary.
October 12	Ruth Rollefson, in honor of John's and Jake's birthday.
October 19	Sara McGah, in memory of Vlasta Kay Krenek.
October 26	Bettijune Fanning, in memory of the Harthan family.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

You can study the Bible every Sunday morning with Pastor Rollefson. It's a great time to join - we are studying at "the very beginning" in Genesis. As you probably know, the Churchwide Assembly last Summer committed the ELCA to a new initiative: "Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible," about which we will hear more soon. Meanwhile, come grab a donut and a cup of coffee, and experience the power of scripture - 9:45 - 10:15 a.m. at the back table in the church.