

The Master's Notes

October 2009

Lutheran Church of The Master

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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The Reverend Deborah Andersen, Interim Pastor



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends!

I'm going to be brief in this piece. I am excited to be at Lutheran Church of The Master, and to be working with all of you in the ministry of serving Jesus Christ. One of the things that I find quite exciting here is the variety of gifts and talents that I have already seen at work in the council and indeed, in all of the members of the congregation that I have met so far! You bring the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 to life: "*there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...*"

God always provides the resources we need for our daily lives as well as the resources we need to work together as a community of faith. Of course, sometimes when we talk of resources for a congregation we're talking about things like buildings and property and bank accounts. But as important (or even more important) are the particular gifts and talents that each of you have that are needed to get the work of ministry done. Some of the gifts St. Paul mentions in 1 Cor. 12 are wisdom, knowledge, faith, prophecy, working of miracles, teaching, assistance, healing. In other passages in the New Testament other gifts are mentioned: mercy, prayer, giving, administration, and more.

I have seen so many gifts here at Church of the Master already: gifts of leadership, hospitality, mercy, giving, wisdom, music, and more! It is wonderful to see how God has blessed this community of faith.

Of course, we remember that we have been blessed so that we may be blessings in our community and in the world, and I have seen some of the ways you are blessings in this community.

One of my strongest spiritual gifts is the gift of teaching, and a second is the gift of exhortation. I think of exhortation in two ways: it is the gift of complaining and the gift of encouragement. As a pastor, I think the

combination of teaching and exhortation are a very good pair to have. I see my role in the community of faith as being similar to an athletic coach. My job is to encourage you to stick to the path of a disciple of Jesus, to help you train yourself as a disciple, to help build you up and equip you for your work as a disciple of Jesus.

I look forward to discovering more of the blessings in this community and exploring with you how we can use all of the gifts and talents that each of you bring so that we can serve our God in even greater ways.

Serving the Master with you,
Pastor Deborah Andersen

STATUS OF THE CALL PROCESS

Our church constitution allows for three to five members to serve on the call committee. So far we have identified three, Barbara Browning, Deborah Warren, myself. There's still time to join. If you're interested contact me (323 481-5503 or Barbara Browning). We plan on formally starting the process with Agnes McClain from the synod in mid-October.

Kevin Grant
President of the Congregation

FINANCIAL UPDATE

For the month of September our donations totaled \$7,200.14, bringing our year-to-date donations to \$92,277.32. Unfortunately, to reach our budget goal of \$146,000 by years' end, we need to be at \$109,500, which means we are \$17,222.68 short at this time. Please be as generous as you can to help us meet our operating needs! Thank you.

Emily Jackson-Yano
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee

THE PARISH HOUSE

The Council has determined that the best stewardship of our property and finances at this time is to use the Parsonage space as a Parish House now. The newly named Parish House will house the office, meetings and fellowship, a music room, a library/study room, and a guest room. Robin and Barbara have already moved much of our kitchen supplies into the kitchen. Dory and Josh have been painting the music room and office room, and we have moved into the music room already. The office move will be gradual, as it is possible to get the phones and DSL rearranged from across the street. Jace plans to move back into her Kelton space, while we save that rent amount. The upstairs guest room and library/study room are being furnished for those uses, and we will arrange the dining and living rooms for meetings and fellowship. The supplies and records and tables and chairs that have been in storage over on Sepulveda were moved this week into the breezeway, saving the storage expense and allowing us to have all our property on the premises. If you haven't yet seen the changes, be sure to take a tour!

CHURCH FLOOR PROJECT

The floors in the front area of the sanctuary are in need of repairs and waxing - holes need filling, the filling tinted, the floors stripped clean and then waxed. The project can be done in several phases and will require considerable labor. We estimate the entire project will cost about \$600.00 in labor and materials. We have had three gifts already totaling \$350.00, so we can get to work very soon. If you wish to support this effort, please contribute to the "Floors Designated Fund". Thank you.

SIMPLY GIVING LINK

The Simply Giving link in the LCM website has been updated! It allows donors to manage their giving to change donation amounts and frequency, to change the bank account or credit card being used, and to print a personal donation history. Remember when you are away this summer, contributions may be made to Lutheran Church of The Master with the secure Electronic Giving service of Vanco Services and Thrivent for Lutherans, using the Simply Giving link on the church website. Go to:

<http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org>

and click on the CONTRIBUTE tab.

There is no cost to you for this program. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the church office (310) 473-1055.

PIZZA GROUPS

You may have noticed that over time the same group of volunteers help with Sunday service. In order to get more people involved - strengthening the affinity so fewer feel like "spectators," I have suggested we start the so-called Pizza groups.

The optimum would be to have four or five groups

with four or five people in each group - one group for each week of the month to help create Sunday service. The name is just a whim because after work or school, when I guess we would meet we need something to eat and most people like pizza. The name can of course be changed.

The purposes with the groups are to discuss the Bible texts that are to be read for the Sunday we are planning, give the Pastor input what we think of the texts, ask the Pastor questions - that are to be answered during the sermon- and divide the practical assignments from handing out bulletins to cleaning up after the hospitality hour. (The functions of assisting ministers and counting are not included because they require special training.) The Pastor is not in charge at the meeting because the Pastor is to pick up ideas and questions for the sermon.

If a group member has a hymn or psalm s/he would like the congregation or soloist to sing, that could be added, too. When it comes to music we have to allow time for the organist-choirmaster to buy the sheet music and practice.

Meetings could take between one and a half to two hours but not more. (I have participated and been the leader of groups in the past and have volunteered to start here.) The participants in the group choose day and time and where to meet. (If the members of a group are located in for example the Valley or Long Beach, it might be easier if the pastor goes there than for four or five participants to drive to the Parish House during rush hour.)

Initially we need not start four or five groups - we can start one and see if this way of working is something we are comfortable with. This is in the works and I will keep you posted.

Maria Gustafsson Grant

CHOIR INFORMATION

The Lutheran Church of the Master Choir has been pleased to welcome 5 new members this fall: Pastor Deborah Andersen, Sandy Chamorro, Russell Fung, Kaitlyn Nickel and Nancy Yamasaki. We appreciate their commitment to enhancing the music of our worship.

As a choir and congregation we are fortunate to have five section leader/soloists who each bring unique skills and style to support the music program. This month we must say good bye to Joanna Foote who will soon be moving to New York City to pursue her vocal career. We thank her for her year of service and wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

There are several upcoming services with special music. On Reformation Sunday, October 24, the choir will sing music by Gabriel Faure, Heinrich Schutz and hymns celebrating our Lutheran tradition.

All Saints Sunday, 11/1, will feature music by Paul Halley, former member of the Paul Winter Consort and Music Director of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City. The choir will sing an American folk song setting arranged for piano 4-hands by Mack Wilberg, Mormon Tabernacle conductor and composer.

David York
Choir and Music Director

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

You can study the Bible every Sunday morning. We meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Parish house and are studying the Gospel of Mark, the source of our current Gospel texts. The ELCA and our Synod have committed to the initiative: "**Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible**" and we will start to use some of these new resources in our study. Come, grab a donut and a cup of coffee, and experience the power of scripture!

REFORMATION WEEKEND

Mark your calendars! Celebrations are the thing on Reformation Weekend, October 24th and 25th. First, **The New City Parish Silent Auction and Gala** will be hosted by Mt. Olive Lutheran in Santa Monica from 5-9 p.m. on Saturday, October 24th. Then on Sunday morning, Reformation Day, Father Joseph C. Scott, C.S.P., Associate Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church, will preach **here at LCM** in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the historic **Lutheran Roman Catholic Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification** (signed in Augsburg, Germany, in 1999). A fun afternoon sing and potluck dinner will top off the weekend beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday at Mt. Olive Lutheran. Pat Maimone, Mt. Olive's new organist, will lead the singing of a Bach choral work.

THE EST PLAY GROUPS

Many thanks to the congregation for welcoming the Playwrights Unit of **Ensemble Studio Theatre-LA** to the Parish on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. This group of 10-25 talented writers reads new scripts out loud weekly and once a month asks actors to perform scenes. The moderators of the Unit are Carole Real and Peter Basch, themselves playwrights of great experience.

Ensemble Studio Theatre-LA's reading series this fall will take place in the LCM sanctuary on the following Monday nights at 7:30. Admission is free (\$10 suggested donation), and the congregation is encouraged to attend. EST-LA is considering these scripts for full production, so you can get in on the early stages of new play development. Rehearsals are at the church on the Sunday night before the Monday performance, and the schedule is as follows:

October 5

7:30 p.m.

The Existential Astronaut Association

by Colin Mitchell

directed by Darin Anthony

October 12

7:30 p.m.

The Groaning Board

by Wendy McCleod

directed by Jenny O'Hara

October 26

7:30 p.m.

3F4F

by Victor Lodato

directed by Rod Menzies

November 2

7:30 p.m.

House of Gold

by Gregory Moss

directed by Gates McFadden

Tom Jacobson

Artistic Director

Ensemble Studio Theatre-LA

www.ensemblestudiotheatre.org

FLOWER CHART

October 4	Bettijune Fanning, in honor of Ray's and Bettijune's 35 th wedding anniversary.
October 11	Ruth Rollefson, in honor of John's and Jake's birthday.
October 18	Sara McGah, in memory of Vlasta Kay Krenek.
October 25	Bettijune Fanning, in memory of the Harthan family.

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

Capt. Durwin Ellerman

Sara Ernan (friend of Sarah Knickerbocker)

June Foray Donovan (friend of Dave Shelton)

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)

Steve Newberry (in the VA Medical Center)

The Family and Friends of Billie Peale

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)

Cody Williams (friend of Kaitlyn Nickel)

Mary Ann Wright (sister of Millie Rojas)

Frances Willms

The Members of the AA Groups