

The Master's Notes

September 2009

Lutheran Church of The Master

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends!

We are heading into fall with a new Interim Pastor, **Deborah Anderson** and a new Interim Organist/Choirmaster, David York. I hope you will all come Sunday September 6th when both of them begin their work with us.

Deborah Anderson was a child when she came to California from Brooklyn, New York. She has a degree in psychology and went to Seminary in Chicago. Pastor Anderson sings and is interested in teaching. She has worked as an interim pastor before and her appointment is half-time.

David York has worked as the Director of Music at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Long Beach for 14 years. He comes with the highest recommendations and we are delighted to have him with us.

As our interim pastor, Deborah will help guide the congregation and the council through the call process to find a new permanent pastor.

We are quickly moving ahead with this and are fortunate to have members who were involved in the last call process. And we are also blessed to have Pastor Richards to provide additional continuity and stability through this transition.

In the coming Sundays, please share with Pastor Anderson and David your fondest of memories of Lutheran Church of The Master, your hopes for the future and suggestions to build an even stronger congregation. They are both anxious to meet you personally.

Kevin Grant

HELP WANTED

We have one more opening for an Assisting Minister. The Assisting Ministers help the pastor during worship with the prayers and communion. If you feel that this is something you would be interested in doing, please talk to Kevin Grant or Barbara Browning after church.

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER

As has been announced, James Taulbee has resigned, for personal reasons, as LCM's Organist/Choirmaster effective September 2, 2009. James' letter to the Council included thanks for the "incredible" support he has felt at Church of The Master, and we thank James for his 15 years of service here. He will be sorely missed by each and all of us.

We have been most fortunate to secure the services of David York as Interim Organist/Choirmaster to begin the choir season in September. David has recently left St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Long Beach after fourteen years as Director of Music. He had developed a full and active music program at St. Luke's and is anxious to continue his work with us in September.

As we are in the process of calling a new pastor, the Church Council and David have agreed that the Organist/Choirmaster position will be an interim appointment through Christmas, with the option and hope making it permanent in the future.

FROM DAVID YORK

*He who finds himself gifted with a tunable Voice,
and yet neglects to cultivate it, not only hides in
the earth a Talent of the highest value, but robs
himself of the Pleasure, of which they only are
conscious who exercise that Faculty.*

*-William Billings,
Eighteenth Century*

William Billings was one of the first native-born composers of recognition in America. The Oxford Dictionary of Music tells us he gave up a life of "tanning" to devote himself to composing and teaching music. While his personal appearance was not commanding (a contemporary describes him as "of moderate size, short of one leg, with one eye, and with an uncommon negligence of person") his love and enthusiasm for music inspired many to pursue what he called "The Great Art of Music."

(continued)

Singing in a church choir not only brings great pleasure as Billings points out, but also offers an opportunity to use one's gifts in service to God and the church. Here at Lutheran Church of The Master we have an exciting choir season planned including the offering of music by the early English composer Christopher Tye, baroque and classical composers Handel and Mendelssohn, an American spiritual and selections in a more contemporary style. Guest instrumentalists will also be featured. If you enjoy singing, please consider participating in the choir this fall. Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 10 at 7:45p.m.

I look forward to meeting you and to serving as your Interim Organist-Choirmaster as together we continue the great musical tradition here at LCM.

If you have questions, I welcome you to contact me: york1635@aol.com or (562) 491-1878.

David York

INVITATION TO ALL SINGERS

As David has announced above, **choir rehearsals will begin again on Thursday, September 10th, at 7:45 p.m.** here in the sanctuary. All singers are invited to join the first rehearsal and get acquainted with David York, new Organist/Choirmaster, as we begin a fresh season of lending our various and God-given voices to worship here at Church of The Master. Martin Luther reminds us in his writings (1530) of the place of music in our worship:

"I am not ashamed to confess publicly that next to theology there is no art which is the equal of music, for she alone, after theology, can do what otherwise only theology can accomplish, namely, quiet and cheer up the soul of man, which is clear evidence that the devil, the originator of depressing worries and troubled thoughts, flees from the voice of music just as he flees from the words of theology. For this very reason the prophets cultivated no art so much as music in that they attached their theology not to geometry, nor to arithmetic, nor to astronomy, but to music, speaking the truth through psalms and hymns." **See you next Thursday!!**

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

You can study the Bible every Sunday morning. We meet from 9:45 until 10:15 a.m. at the back table in the church. We are just beginning to study the Gospel of Mark. 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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Donations in August were \$10,334.46 which brings the total regular offerings through the end of August to \$85,077.18 or 58.27% of the \$146,000 budgeted for giving in 2009. Now 2/3's through the year, we are \$12,255 behind our budgetary goals. Please be as regular and generous in your giving as you're able in these months ahead to help us meet our ministry responsibilities.

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.

FLOWER CHART

September 6	Flowers given in honor of Brianna's 23 rd birthday.
September 13	Sarah and Dave Knickerbocker, in honor of their anniversary.
September 20	Sara McGah, in memory of Russella.
September 30	Amanda Bartz, in celebration of the 3 rd birthday of her nephew Spencer.

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

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)

Ofelia Rodriguez (colleague of Sarah Knickerbocker)

Eddi Rytterager (friend of the Nickel family)

Jackie Savage

Lori Splinter (Vice President of the Synod)

Mary Ann Wright (sister of Millie Rojas)

Frances Willms