

The Master's Notes

April 2013

Lutheran Church of The Master

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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iiftu@lutheran.churchofthemaster.org

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mastersnotes@lutheran.churchofthemaster.org



Craig Shepherd 2000

FROM THE PASTOR

So - I've been thinking about something that I'd like the rest of you all to think about with me. We have a wonderful worship service. A lot of talented people put forth considerable effort to consistently deliver a worship service that is beautiful and meaningful. This congregation invests significant financial offerings to support this kind of Sunday worship because doing worship in our way costs approximately \$2400 for each Sunday. Beyond worship, our Sunday brunch is fun and delicious. And I think Lutheran Church of The Master gathers an enjoyable collection of loving people whom I'm proud to know and excited for others to get to know.

Here's the quandary: I don't think the way we get the word out about us right now does justice to how great Sunday morning really is. It's like having this great, fun friend that we never introduce to the rest of our social circle. Or going to an amazing restaurant, but never talking about it with others. So how do we get the word out? Any ideas?

Some of us are talking about how to make our website a more effective advertising tool. Check out the website and send me an email with thoughts about what doesn't work and ideas about what could work better. There have been ideas about developing our online presence with targeted advertisements on certain websites. We've slowly been stepping up our *Facebook* profile so that it is something interesting to check in with. Any suggestions for making our online presence more prominent in a cost-effective manner would be very appreciated.

Our Six-Year plan has wonderful ideas related to the physical visibility of our church - ideas such as: banners, lights, signs and a fresh, clean, accented paint

job. But all that takes money and growth. However, the most effective way for a church to get known will always be for the people of a church to take pride in making their church a place they glowingly talk about with others.

Ioan Iftu, Pastor

FROM THE PRESIDENT: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH COUNCIL MEETING

For the last three months, we've had the Council & Budget and Finance Meetings on the same night. It makes for long evening, but we get more work done.

For Memory Month, the council has decided to purchase a Zimbelstern for the organ. See David's article for more information.

As a service event, we are requesting that people donate Greeting Cards to the Church. The cards will then be given to inmates to write to their families. See page 4 for details.

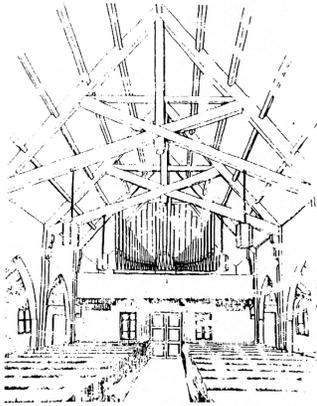
For the April Fun Event, we will be visiting Chinatown on the 27th. See page 3 for more details.

Kevin Grant, President

COME TO OUR MEETINGS

All Council, Budget and Finance, and other Committee meetings are open meetings. Anyone may attend the meetings to observe the proceedings as a guest and is welcome to request voice from the chair. The Council is posting the Council meeting agenda, minutes, and reports in the Parish House for your information. If you have any questions about the meetings or materials, please consult with Kevin or Pastor. Our next Council & Budget and Finance meeting will be on April 16th starting at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC



Help us celebrate a wonderful musical legacy...

Over twenty years ago a group of music supporters were called together by Pastor Robert Richards to form a committee charged with recommending a new organ for Lutheran Church of The Master. At the time the demise of the existing Reuter organ, which had had a previous life as a funeral home organ, was imminent. The organ committee began its task by visiting organs in several Southern California churches in search of a builder who could provide the church with an appropriate instrument to lead congregational singing, accompany the choir and perform solo literature.



Ty Woodward at the Reuter Console (1990)

With the help of LCM organist Ty Woodward (1989-1994) the committee chose to commission a 17-rank organ built by the Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio. Pastor Richards and the committee then turned to the task of funding the new instrument. Generous LCM members and philanthropists John and Donna Crean began the effort with an initial gift. Over 50 families also contributed generously to insure that the organ was paid for by the dedicatory recital on May 16, 1993. Nearly \$160,000 was raised.

With assistance from the Worship and Music & Property Maintenance committees, church members completed much of the preparatory work for the new organ. The pipes were placed in the rear balcony and a new console was located near the choir loft on the left-hand side of the sanctuary. The organ has served the church well for 20 years.

On **Sunday, May 5th at 4:00 pm** we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of our wonderful organ with a festive concert featuring the LCM Choir and organists Ty Woodward, Weicheng Zhao, and David York. A highlight of the concert will be the Los Angeles premiere of *The Butterfly Lovers*, a beautifully evocative transcription for organ and violin depicting a 1000 year-old Chinese love story often regarded as the Chinese equivalent of Romeo and Juliet. The work was transcribed and will be performed by Weicheng and his violinist wife Fang.

Weicheng is a Master's Degree student of Cherry Rhodes at USC. In 2012 he won the 6th Miami International Organ Competition and was awarded first prize in organ in the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition. After receiving his Bachelor of Music degree in 2008, he was appointed to a fulltime faculty position at the Conservatory of Music in his native Tianjin, China. He took a leave of absence in 2009 to study organ at USC. He is organist at St. Bede the Venerable Catholic Church in La Cañada. Weicheng became a friend to many of us at LCM several years ago when he spent time practicing on our organ. Recently married, his wife Fang has joined him in Los Angeles. Members Nancy and Bryan Yamasaki were able to travel to China last summer to attend their wedding.

That day we will initiate our 2013 Memory Month fundraising efforts with plans to raise \$2500 to install a **Zimbelstern** stop on the organ. The Zimbelstern is a small set of five metal bells that will be mounted in the organ chamber. When the organ stop is activated the bells make a delicate tinkling sound used most often in North European organ music of the 16-18th centuries. It will join the chimes, given by Laura Smith, as additions to the 17 ranks of pipes.



Please join us on May 5th and give as generously as you are able as we celebrate and enhance a wonderful musical legacy begun in 1993.

David York, Minister of Music

FINANCIAL UPDATE

In March we received \$14,781.60 in donations. This brings our year-to-date offering total to \$38,274.83, or 23.05% of our 2013 goal of \$166,050. Thank you for your continuing support of the mission of our church!

Emily Jackson-Yano, Financial Secretary

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!



We have reached our Lenten offering goal of \$1000 for New City Parish's and our own youth ministries. Thrivent Financial has generously agreed to match our \$1000 with \$500 of their own dollars. So \$500 is going to our youth ministry and together with Thrivent we will be sending \$1000 to New City Parish for their Sunday School curriculum library.

But your generosity didn't stop there because in just one Sunday you also raised another \$1000 in Thanksgiving offerings for New City Parish's food distribution program. **NCP in 2012 fed 33,850 hungry people and distributed 14,000 bags of groceries to people in Los Angeles.** Because you gave this money at this time it has the opportunity to be matched by the Feinstein Foundation with another \$1000 for the hungry of LA.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SPRING CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

Every Spring, local Lutheran congregations gather to explore our common mission. As people of Christ, we are called to welcome all and this year's Spring Conference Assembly theme is "Welcoming Congregations." The speakers will be emphasizing the following:

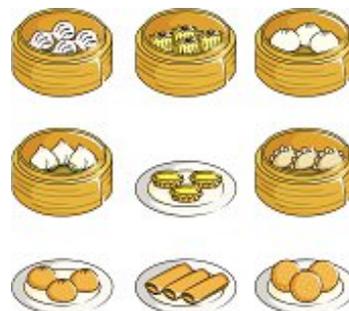
- Welcoming Immigrants
- Welcoming LGBT
- Welcoming Veterans
- Welcoming Youth and Young Adults

Everyone is invited and Council members and Synod Assembly voting delegates are especially encouraged to attend this event.

Saturday April 13th 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Chapel of Peace Lutheran Church
1009 N. Market St.
Inglewood, CA 90302

APRIL FUN EVENT: CHINATOWN



The fun event for the month of April will be lunch at a Dim Sum restaurant followed by a walking tour of the downtown LA Chinatown area. Sheila Stone, a friend of the congregation, has offered to lead us on the tour.

The event will be on Saturday, April 27th, starting at 11:00 a.m. in Chinatown. If you would like to take the Expo line to Chinatown, please meet us at the church by 9:30 a.m. when we will carpool to the Expo line or you can just meet us at the Expo line by 10:00 a.m. The Expo line is at the corner of Washington and National in Culver City (across from Helms Bakery complex). You enter the (FREE) parking lot from Washington. The cost for a day pass will be \$5.00 if you already have a Tap card or \$6.00 without a Tap card (the extra \$1.00 will be the cost to buy a new Tap card). This can all be easily done at the station's ticket machines. If you have any questions on the day of the event, you can get in touch with either Sheila at (310) 945-8033 or Robin at (310) 429-6093. Please let the church office know by April 24th, if you would like to take the Expo train line.

We will all meet at the corner of College Street and Broadway in Chinatown around 11:00 a.m. If you are interested in going and will arrange to meet us in Chinatown, the office will need to also know this also before the 24th.

Dim sum is a special type of cuisine from Hong Kong. The term 'dim sum' literally means 'a bit of heart' – and the little plates of dumplings, pastries and other yummys are definitely a taste treat! Once your party is seated, wait-staff pushing carts come by your table and you simply point at what you want. I have been a big dim sum fan for years and will be happy to 'translate'! If you don't feel comfortable eating with chopsticks, forks are available for the asking.

In addition to savories, there are also many delectable sweets on offer – dahn tats (tiny custard tarts), almond and coconut jellos, and mango pudding ... oh, my mouth is watering just thinking about it!

Sheila Stone, Friend of the Congregation

LA MARATHON



Barbara Browning Cheering On The Runners

On March 17th, the Los Angeles Marathon came by Lutheran Church of the Master where 18 of us helped out at the water station in front of the church. Also, two of our new friends, Manny Cabacungan and Fred Ascher, ran and were able to complete the marathon that day. They were running for the "Real Medicine Foundation" cause. RMF provides humanitarian support to people living in disaster and poverty stricken areas, and continues to help communities long after the world's spotlight has faded. RMF's vision is to move beyond traditional humanitarian aid programs by creating long-term solutions with local individuals and organizations to health care and poverty related issues. They focus on resource development and health care capacity building. If you would like to learn more about RMF or would like to maybe make a donation to them, please talk to Fred or visit their website at:

RealMedicineFoundation.org.

GREETING CARDS FOR PRISONERS



During the month of April, we will collect blank greeting cards. The greeting cards will be sent to prisoners in local prisons so they can use them to send to their loved ones whom they are away from during this time of their lives. At the end of the month we will arrange to delivery all the greeting cards to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in North Hollywood. At St. Matthew's, they have gathered a group, Koinonia Prison Ministry, being led by Kenny Callaghan. Please bring the greeting cards to church on Sunday's and give them to Robin.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS



Hot Off The Press!! The April - June edition of the Christ In Our Home devotional booklet is available in the pew racks and in the narthex. The Large print edition is also available in the narthex. **Be sure to take your copy.**

DO YOU LIKE TO KNIT? ... WANT TO LEARN?



We will gather again on April 20th to knit or learn to knit together. Please come to knit together in the Parish House at 11:00 a.m. - a light lunch will be served. If you are interested or if you have any questions, please contact Barbara Browning at (310) 393-6844.

FLOWER CHART



April 7	Open
April 14	The Hunts, in remembrance of Mary Hunt, Martin's Nana who made it to 100.
April 21	Open
April 28	Open

If you wish to memorialize someone or an event, please note that with your name on the flower chart. **Just a reminder that the cost is \$15 for a single vase and \$30 for both vases.** When paying for the flowers, please include the payment in your offering envelope and **make sure to write "flowers" on the envelope.** (Please note that the office will not be carrying forward your donation dates from last year, so you will need to sign up for the dates you wish to donate or let the office know.)

TO CONTACT PASTOR ITTU

Note: Pastor Ittu will be out of the office at a First Call Workshop from April 9th thru April 12th. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact the church office to be put in contact with the on-call pastor.

To meet with Pastor, contact him directly at his church e-mail address: iittu@lutheran.churchofthemaster.org You may also call the church office - Pastor has his own church voice mail - to leave him a private message just call (310) 473-1055 and after the outgoing message begins, press 2 and the # key.

STEWARDSHIP 2013

Stewardship is a combination of time, talents and money. We, at Lutheran Church of The Master, are blessed with people who willingly share their time, talents and money. You may not be aware of the fact that it costs approximately \$2,400.00 a Sunday for us to have a worship service. In order to help with these costs some of us will sponsor Sundays to honor a person, a group of people, an event, or a special interest project.

These sponsorships will continue throughout the year. This is an exciting opportunity to support our worship services, while celebrating people, events and programs within our congregation.

A special gift has been given in honor of our pastors on April 14, 2013.

Members of the Stewardship Committee

SIMPLY GIVING

You may wish to consider making your 2013 contributions online. 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:

lutheran.churchofthemaster.org
click on the Online Giving tab.

There is no cost to you for this program. You may donate to the church either in one-time contributions or in an ongoing arrangement for regular offerings. You may have your offerings debited directly from your checking or savings account or from your credit card - you manage the donation frequency and the donation amount for each fund you wish to support. Register by clicking on the Simply Giving - Give Now to communicate directly and securely with Vanco Services. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the church office (310) 473-1055.

OUR PRAYER LIST



Peggy Anderson

Barbara Bombach (mother of Larry Bombach)
Julie and Patrick Brown (friends of Peggy Anderson)

Emma Lou Candow

Martic Colman (nephew of Mary and John Savage)
Robert Eurice (nephew of Peggy Anderson)

Claudia Esperanza

Jane Fan and Alex Lin

Marvin Frank (grandfather of Griffith Frank)

Virginia Frank (mother of Griffith Frank)

Bennie Goings (cousin of Ramone Muñoz)

Leah Hoffmitz (friend of Tom Jacobson)

Lois Jackson (mother of Emily Jackson-Yano)

LCpl. Adam Johnson, USMC

(brother of Julie Johnson)

Betty Johnson (mother of John Johnson)

Daryl Johnson (father of Julie Johnson)

Jason Johnson, US Army (cousin of Julie Johnson)

Merle Johnson (grandfather of Julie Johnson)

Pastor Ray Kibler

Jonathan Kovac (brother of Deborah Kovac)

Gisela Marx

Michael

Sandy Moran (friend of Dave Shelton)

Janice Newberry (family of Steve Newberry)

Erma Delores Nickel

Pastor Carlos Paiva

Paula (friend of Larry Bombach)

Fred Rassey (friend of Robin Nickel)

Mak Katznelson (friend of Sarah Knickerbocker)

Helena Stark (family member of the Knickerbocker's)

Millie Ross-Clunis Stephens

(friend of Sarah and Dave Knickerbocker)

Ernie Vasquez (partner of Larry Bombach)

Sara Victoria

Frances Willms

Hideto Yano (father-in-law of Emily Jackson-Yano)

The plight of the Syrian Peoples

Members of the AA Groups

FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH

Are you interested in contributing something to our weekly fellowship brunch such as sandwiches, pizza, dessert, or anything of your liking? If so, please contact the church office by Friday at noon or call Barbara at (310) 393-6844.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER

Every Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Choir Warm-up 10:29 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Brunch 12:00 p.m.	<h2 style="text-align: center;">APRIL 2013 CALENDAR</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Please refer to CALENDAR at http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org for updates.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</p>					
	1 City of Angels Children's Choir Rehearsal 4-7 p.m. Sanctuary	2 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	3 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	4 No Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 String Orchestra Project Rehearsal 2-5 p.m. Sanctuary	8 City of Angels Children's Choir Rehearsal 4-7 p.m. Sanctuary	9 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	10 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	11 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	12	13 Men's Bible Breakfast at Mt. Olive 8:00 a.m. LA Metro Assembly 9:00 a.m.
14 String Orchestra Project Rehearsal 2-5 p.m. Sanctuary	15 City of Angels Children's Choir Rehearsal 4-7 p.m. Sanctuary	16 Council and Budget and Finance Meeting 6:00 p.m. AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	17 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	18 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	19 A Little Night Music - Rehearsal 7-10 p.m. Sanctuary	20 Knitting Group 11:00 a.m. String Orchestra Project Rehearsal 2-5 p.m. Sanctuary
21 A Little Night Music - Performance 3-6 p.m. Sanctuary	22 City of Angels Children's Choir Rehearsal 4-7 p.m. Sanctuary	23 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	24 Masters Notes articles due in office. AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	25 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	26	27 April Fun Event: Chinatown Tour 11:00 a.m.
28 String Orchestra Project Rehearsal 2-5 p.m. Sanctuary	29 City of Angels Children's Choir Rehearsal 4-7 p.m. Sanctuary	30 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary			April Birthdays Hazel Wetts - April 2 nd Victoria Shereshevskaya - April 2 nd Eric Ormsby - April 2 nd Nancy Ruczyski - April 11 th Deborah Kovac - April 18 th Barbara Foss - April 23 rd Maria Gustafsson Grant - April 25 th Charlene MacKenzie - April 25 th Dave Shelton - April 26 th Robin Nickel - April 30 th	

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER

APRIL 2013 SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

USHERS	ACOLYTE	READERS	ASSISTANT	COUNTERS
April 7	April 7	April 7	April 7	April 7
Emily Jackson-Yano	Jeremy Nickel	Deborah Kovac Acts 5:27-32 and Revelation 1:4-8 Second Sunday of Easter	Tom Jacobson	Barbara Browning
Robin Nickel				Ronald Nickel
April 14	April 14	April 14	April 14	April 14
Emily Jackson-Yano	Jeremy Nickel	Tom Jacobson Acts 9:1-20 and Revelation 5:11-14 Third Sunday of Easter	Emily Jackson-Yano	Sara McGah
Robin Nickel				Joshua Nickel
April 21	April 21	April 21	April 21	April 21
Kevin Grant	Jeremy Nickel	Amanda Bialek Acts 9:36-43 and Revelation 7:9-17 Fourth Sunday of Easter	Tom Jacobson	Maria Gustafsson Grant
Bryan Yamasaki				Millie Rojas
April 28	April 28	April 28	April 28	April 28
Kevin Grant	Jeremy Nickel	John Johnson Acts 11:1-18 and Revelation 21:1-6 Fifth Sunday of Easter	Deborah Kovac	Emily Jackson-Yano
Bryan Yamasaki				Tom Jacobson