

The Master's Notes

April 2016

Lutheran Church of The Master

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
a Reconciling in Christ congregation

10931 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 473-1055 Fax (310) 478-7805

churchoffice@lutheran.churchofthemaster.org
<http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org>

The Rev. Peg Schultz-Akerson, Interim Pastor
pastorpeg@sbcglobal.net

Joshua Nickel, editor
mastersnotes@lutheran.churchofthemaster.org



Craig Shepherd 2000

An Easter Word from Pastor Peg

Easter is not a day, but a seven week season of joyful celebration! Enjoy this prayer in your homes throughout these 50 great days!

*Life-giving God,
in the mystery of Christ's resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life,
and the bread of life to nourish your people.
Send us forth that we may show your abiding love to all
the world,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen
(adapted from Augsburg, Sundays and Seasons 2016)*

Invite a friend to join us for 11:00 a.m. worship on Sundays! May our life together reflect the transforming grace that sends us to be Christ's risen people in the world God loves!

I rejoice to be among you, in the risen life of Christ,
Pastor Peg

From the St. Paul's Intern

I am the Vicar (pastoral intern) at St. Paul's Santa Monica in conjunction with SoCalLutherans, the Los Angeles chapter of Reconciling Works. My wife of less than a year, Mandy is also a Vicar and is serving at Hollywood Lutheran. We are both 3rd year interns from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC; we will return there in the fall to complete our schooling and prepare for our first call. My call is to military chaplaincy and I am currently serving as

Chaplain Candidate in the Army Reserves here in LA. I will spend at least three years in a parish though my goal is to eventually serve as an active duty chaplain, providing full-time pastoral care and worship opportunities to our soldiers wherever they may be.

I am thankful for your support of financial gifts, prayers, and through providing a member of my internship committee, currently Pastor Bob Richards. I look forward to being with you for preaching and worship, April 17th!

Blessings,
Vicar Chelsea Achterberg

From the President

Despite having an interim pastor and being in transition, our church is growing. We have about eight people taking instruction from Pastor Peg to prepare to become members. Our attendance is averaging between 50 and 60 people per service. So we must be doing something right.

While this is good news, our parish house is small and can get pretty crowded. I worry about losing some of the intimacy people feel in a small church. I'll be working to make the most of our limited space and encouraging people to meet in smaller groups to address common interests.

For example, I'm working with Pastor Peg to restart the Persian Bible Study Group. When Pastor Ittu was doing this, Farsi-speaking members of the church were able to learn about the Bible and discuss it in their first language. Something, they couldn't do in our normal Sunday Bible Study.

(Continued On Back)

The Choir is another example of a common interest group. While they perform for all of us on Sunday, they practice on Thursdays and share a close fellowship.

So think of ways we can maximize the use of our space and think of common interest groups you would like to form. Our church is what we make it.

Kevin Grant, President

From the Minister of Music



In Defense of "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

At my last church it was sometimes the practice to conduct a survey of "favorite hymns" which were then programmed, as appropriate, during the summer months. Each year, "Onward, Christian Soldiers" made the list of top five favorites.

Hymns with a military theme used to be sung regularly in Christian worship. In addition to "Onward, Christian Soldiers", I remember "Stand up, Stand up for Jesus" and "The Son of God Goes Forth to War" as favorites from my childhood. About 30 years or so ago, these hymns began to fall out of favor and the editors of many newer hymnals have deleted them altogether. "Onward, Christian Soldiers" is not found in The Presbyterian Hymnal, The New Century Hymnal [UCC] or in our own hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006).

The Rev. Christopher Robinson, Asst. Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in San Antonio, TX writes in his blog that after singing "Onward, Christian Soldiers" at his church in a similar summer hymn request program, he "hung his head and walked out of the church in silence, and wept, just a little." For him the text seemed to say, "we're going to come kick your butt in the name of Jesus."

Given the political climate in the world today I can understand his fears. But perhaps a little history would be helpful in understanding this hymn. Let's take a little quiz.

The text of "Onward, Christian Soldiers" was written:

- A) As a morale-booster for the British troops in India
- B) To inspire soldiers to victory in the Boer War
- C) For an English children's festival

If you answered C, you're right! The text, written in 1864 by Sabine Baring-Gould for a children's festival at Horbury Bridge, near Wakefield, England, was intended to be sung by the children as they moved in procession from village to village carrying a cross and banners. What it was NOT intended to be, as some nowadays seem to think, was a glorification of war. The references to war are there, but, as any reading of the entire text will confirm, it is a war between the good of God and Christ and the forces of Satan, not unlike other hymns with militaristic metaphors, which we regularly sing without protest, such as "The strife is o'er".

Time for one more quiz. The hymn tune for "Onward, Christian Soldiers", St. Gertrude was written by:

- A) William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army
- B) Prince Albert, consort to Queen Victoria
- C) A famous composer of comic operettas

Again, the correct answer is C. St. Gertrude was composed by Sir Arthur Sullivan, who, with Sir W.S. Gilbert, wrote such still-popular operettas as "The Mikado" and "H.M.S. Pinafore." It was not the original tune for the text, having been composed in 1871, seven years after the first appeared.

The battle between good and evil as depicted in "Onward, Christian Soldiers" is a common metaphor found in scripture. Several weeks ago we heard the story of Satan tempting Jesus in the wilderness. And as part of the Baptismal liturgy, candidates are asked, "Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?"

While our attitudes about militarism in hymns have changed over the years, I think that with the proper understanding, hymns such as "Onward, Christian Soldiers" can still find a place in our worship. Who knows, next time we read the lectionary text from Ephesians "Put on the whole armor of God", or are exhorted to "Fight the Good Fight" we might just sing "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

**Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle see His banners go!**

**Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.**

David York, Minister of Music

Financial Update

During the month of March you donated **\$18,241.80** to our General Fund. This brings our year-to-date giving to **\$35,392.43**, or **24.41%** of our 2016 goal of **\$145,000**.



You also gave, via your lenten donations, **\$1,277.98** to Habitat for Humanity, which is well in excess of our goal of **\$1,000**. Thank you for your generosity!

Emily Jackson-Yano, Financial Secretary

Thank You

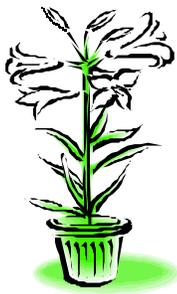
Thank you to the Congregation and to the Church Council for the very generous gift of \$300.00 which was presented to me on Sunday March 20th, 2016. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. I shall place your gift in my travel account and in coming days think thankful thoughts for all of you while traveling in some exotic land.

Sincerely, Pastor Richards

Large-Print Bulletins

Did you know that the worship bulletins are available in large-print format on Sunday mornings? Thanks to John Johnson, who instigating the idea, the large-print bulletins also include the hymns to be sung from the red book. Be sure to ask the ushers for a copy.

Flower Chart



April 3	Open
April 10	Open
April 17	Open
April 24	Open

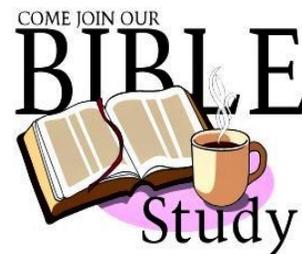
Please consider donating the altar flowers for worship. If you wish to memorialize someone or an event, please note that with your name on the flower chart. **Note: the cost in 2016 will be \$15 for a single vase and \$30 for both vases.** When paying for the flowers, please include the payment in your offering envelope and **make sure to write "flowers" on the envelope.**

Come To Our Meetings



All Council 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. Our next Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 19th starting at 6:00 p.m.** Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sunday Bible Study



Reminder! You can study the Bible every Sunday morning. We meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish House and study each week's lessons in advance of the service. Leah Chang continues to lead the studies through April. Come, grab a donut, pour a cup of coffee, and experience the power of scripture.

Come to our Craft Day



We will meet on April 16th to knit or paint or do any other crafts you may like to do. This is a time to come together and enjoy each other's company while doing crafts we love. Come to 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.

Devotional Booklets



The April - June edition of the Christ In Our Home devotional booklet is available in the Narthex and in the Parish House. The Large print edition is also available. Be sure to take your copy!

Simply Giving



You may wish to consider making your 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 Give Online 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 Give Online tab to communicate directly and securely with Vanco Services. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the church office (310) 473-1055.

Inkjet Printer Cartridge Recycling Program



We have a recycling program here at the church to recycle your used inkjet cartridges. If you would like to participate in this program, please give your items to John. They will be turned in to Staples who will pay us for each one we send in. The money will then be put towards the purchase of new office supplies. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact the church office.

Masters Notes By Email



Do you want to help the environment by saving paper? If you do not already do so, you can still sign up to have your Master Notes delivered to you through your email? If you would like to be added to the list, contact us at mastersnotes@lutheran.churchofthemaster.org.

Our Prayer List



We keep in prayer: Abbas, Ali, Arash, Ardavan, the Family and Friends of Jason Avila, Fariba, Roya, Soraya, Yasaman, David Arriola, Gina Beretta, Barbara Bombach, Yuby Calderon, Francoise Campoverde, Emma Lou Candow, Tootsie Capelle, Victoria and J. W. Chavier Sr., Andrew Crean, Edita Cabacungan Donnelly and Family, Ali Farzinkia, Ladante Fisher, Jacqueline Hunt, Malinda J., Ted and Lynne Jackson, Betty Johnson, Merle Johnson, Rossen Kirilov, Dotty Knight, Elizabeth Kovac, Jonathan Kovac, B. J. Lange, Gisela Marx, Steve Newberry, Rachel and her unborn child, The Reul Family, Harley Rockoff, Millie Rojas, Rosamelida Sandoval, Bryan Sanders, The Family and Friends of John Savage, the Wendy Schultz Family, Lee Silverman, Hilary Smith, Alireza Soulati, Helena Stark, Peter Stackhouse, Gordon Stark, Polina Tashlitskaya, Vi Venter, John Warren, Kent Weed, Ryan Wiley, Hideto Yano, the plight of the Syrian people, members of our AA Groups.

Names may be added to the prayer list by filling out a prayer card in the pew racks or by contacting the office by email. Names will remain on the prayer list for 3 months.

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 Barbara at (310) 393-6844.

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<p>Every Sunday</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Choir Warm-up 10:28 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m.</p>	<p>April 2016 Calendar</p> <p>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>					
<p>April Birthdays</p> <p>Nancy Ruczynski – April 1st Hazel Wetts – April 2nd Eric Ormsby – April 2nd Deborah Kovac – April 18th Barbara Foss – April 23rd Maria Gustafsson Grant – April 25th Charlene MacKenzie – April 25th Dave Shelton – April 26th Robin Nickel – April 30th</p>					1	2
3 Rev. Jonathan Hemphill Presiding	4	5	6 Community Law Clinic 6:30 p.m. Parish House AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	8	9
10	11	12 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	13 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	14 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	15	16 Craft Day 11:00 a.m.
17 Vicar Chelsea Achterberg Preaching	18	19 Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Sanctuary AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	20 Community Law Clinic 6:30 p.m. Parish House AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	21 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	22 Masters Notes articles due in office.	23
24	25	26 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	27 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	28 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	29	30

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April 2016 Schedule

(Subject to Change)

USHERS	READERS	ASSISTANT	COUNTERS
April 3	April 3 Second Sunday of Easter	April 3	April 3
Charlotte Johnson	Tom Jacobson Acts 5:27-32 and Revelation 1:4-8	Deborah Kovac	Barbara Browning
Richard Levine			Ronald Nickel
April 10	April 10 Third Sunday of Easter	April 10	April 10
Kevin Grant	Millie Rojas Acts 9:1-6,7-20 and Revelation 5:11-14	Tom Jacobson	Emily Jackson-Yano
Bryan Yamasaki			Ronald Nickel
April 17	April 17 Fourth Sunday of Easter	April 17	April 17
Fred Ascher	Fred Ascher Acts 9:36-43 and Revelation 7:9-17	Emily Jackson-Yano	Maria Gustafsson-Grant
Manny Cabacungan			Joshua Nickel
April 24	April 24 Fifth Sunday of Easter	April 24	April 24
Julie Johnson	Kim Hedlin Acts 11:1-18 and Revelation 21:1-6	Tom Jacobson	Emily Jackson-Yano
Carlos Valera			Tom Jacobson
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