

The Master's Notes

January 2014

Lutheran Church of The Master

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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mastersnotes@lutheran.churchofthemaster.org



Craig Shepherd 2000

FROM THE PASTOR

In the last year Lutheran Church of The Master has accomplished so much. The work our leaders have done on the Church's investments have put us in a more financially stable and more generous place. Over the Summer, usually a time of lower worship attendance, we consistently had worship attendance of around 50 people. It is a sign of growth. Our website was redeveloped to look great and function efficiently. We have instituted numerous changes at an administrative level that are aimed to free to do more ministry. Our 6 year plan has called for so many little changes here and there which are supposed to work together and add up to growing worship attendance.

What I want us to be attentive to is that when so many changes happen so quickly, a culture of criticism can arise. The criticisms come from a good place of trying to tweak the new thing we do so that it does the good we envision and desire. Like adjusting the picture settings on your T.V. and someone saying: "It is a little too green. It needs more contrast." until the picture is just right. Or hanging a picture frame and asking a friend to stand back for a look and hearing: "It needs to go a little to the left." Criticism has a time and place, and our recent changes may warrant now being that time at Lutheran Church of The Master. However, we are human and criticisms, even well meaning and needed ones, can hurt. Church is not supposed to hurt.

The only response I know of is grace, compassionate forgiveness welling up from the love of God in us. Grace for those making critiques that unexpectedly hurt. Grace to those that could be critiqued but have been worn thin by their best efforts at a good cause. Grace always comes from God. But sometimes we

need it from people. So when a coworker or child or neighbor or friend is taking one something new, instead of well meaning criticism, they may need an extra portion of grace. Your church is no different.

Ioan Ittu, Pastor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year

Make one of your resolutions to be more active with your church. You can start by attending the Saturday January 18th Fun Event, an afternoon board game party, to be held immediately after the Craft Group.

Also, we're always looking for new content for our Website. If you have any ideas let me know.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped and participated in the Congregation Election and Budget meeting. A lot of work goes into the preparation of these things. Thank you.

Kevin Grant, President

FINANCIAL UPDATE



In December you gave **\$21,791.28** in offerings to our General Fund. Our total offerings for 2013 was **\$164,707.19** or **99.19%** of our budgeted goal of **\$166,050**. Thank you for generosity in 2013!! God bless.

Emily Jackson-Yano, Financial Secretary

ANNUAL BUDGET AND ELECTION MEETING RECAP

The Congregation gathered for the Annual Budget and Election Meeting on December 15th after worship. Twenty-four voting members attended the meeting where the Congregation Council members were elected along with the officers, the proposed 2014 Budget was approved and the Foundation Bylaw changes were all approved. The election of the Synod Assembly Representatives was delegated to the council to be determined at a later date. The results of the election were as follows:

2014 Church Council

Kevin Grant (2014-2015)
Barbara Browning (2014)
Maria Gustafsson Grant (2014-2015)
Kenneth Roehrs (2014-2015)
Emily Jackson-Yano (2014)
Richard Levine (2014-2015)
Sara McGah (2014)
Joshua Nickel (2014-2015)
Bryan Yamasaki (2014-2015)

2014 Officers

Kevin Grant – President
Barbara Browning – Vice-President
Maria Gustafsson Grant – Secretary
Kenneth Roehrs – Treasurer

ANNUAL REPORTS CONGREGATION MEETING



Make a note on your January 2014 calendar to reserve January 19th, the date of our annual congregational meeting immediately after worship. At that meeting we will receive, review, and approve the annual reports, approve constitutional amendments recommended for approval by the council, and consider any other pertinent business.

FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

Will the choir stand together at the correct moment? Is that bass in the back row singing too loudly (just kidding Ryan!)? Am I playing the piano or organ on the next piece? Frequently during worship my mind is racing on to the next liturgical event, trying to make sure that things flow smoothly so that we can worship well. As a worship leader it's sometimes difficult to

actually worship during a Sunday morning service. The details of "producing" worship can easily get in the way.

I've been thinking recently about the opportunities I have outside of Sunday morning for spiritual nourishment. Some are obvious: I attended an Advent Service of Lessons and Carols with friends and it was an uplifting musical and religious experience. During my summer vacation I always enjoy visiting services at other churches.

Another way that I find a spiritual connection is during the process of worship planning. Prior to an upcoming liturgical season, Pastor Ittu and I discuss the themes of the season, determine the arc and flow of the musical and spoken liturgy and establish the overall tone of worship. I then read the lessons for each Sunday and decide the best ways that music can support the readings. The experience of studying the lectionary, the 3-year cycle of scripture readings, helps me draw closer to God and serves as an important conduit for religious thought

And speaking of worship and the lectionary, the readings for the Sundays in January and early February bring us some important moments in the early life of Jesus:

1/5- The Naming of Jesus

1/12- The Epiphany of Our Lord

1/19- The Baptism of Our Lord

1/26- Jesus begins his public ministry by calling four disciples

2/2- The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

The Gospel reading for this day contains a simple verse that I particularly like: *The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom* (Luke 2:40).

It's important for each of us to seek avenues that help us connect with God. Whether this is Sunday worship, a stroll on the beach, time spent reading the Bible or another activity I hope that we are all able to strengthen our faith relationship during 2014.

Baritone **Daniel Cheng** joined the music staff as a choir section leader at LCM in September 2012. During his time with us he completed a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance at UCLA and spent several months of further study in Europe. This month we say goodbye to Daniel as he moves to Chicago to audition for operas and seek musical opportunities. We thank him for his many contributions to our worship and wish him the best in his career pursuits.

David York, Minister of Music

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS



The January - March 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!

FLOWER CHART



January 5	Jacob and Grace Ahn, in Honor of Pastor Richards
January 12	Open
January 19	Open
January 26	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 \$20 for a single vase and \$40 for both vases (note the price increase for 2014).** 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 CRAFT DAY



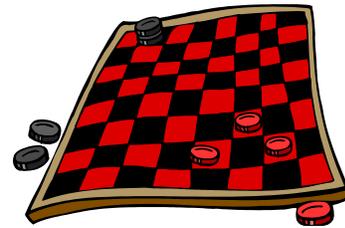
We will be meeting on January 18th to knit or paint or do any other crafts you may like to do. This is a time to come together and enjoy each other's company while doing crafts we love. Come to the Parish House at 11:00 a.m. - a light lunch will be served. If you are interested or if you have any questions please contact Barbara Browning at (310) 393-6844.

COME TO OUR MEETINGS



Everyone is invited to attend our meetings. Our Council/Finance Meeting will be on January 13th at 6:00 p.m. You are also welcome to join us for dinner at around 5:30 p.m., sponsored by one of the council members. All are welcome!

JANUARY FUN EVENT: FUN AND GAMES



On January 18th, LCM will be having another "Game Night" in the Parish House. The "night" will start at 1:00 p.m. and will include lunch. For those who have never been to a game night, this is a time that we all get together and play board games, have a good time laughing, and just enjoying each other's company. So please put this date on your calendar and plan on coming out for good food, good friends, and good fun.

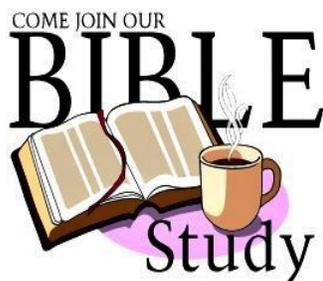
TO CONTACT PASTOR ITTU



Note: Pastor Ittu will be on vacation from December 30th until January 14th. If you need to speak with a pastor during that time, call the office and we will put you 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.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY



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 with Pastor Ittu. Our study of the Bible is in keeping with our Synod's commitment to the ELCA initiative "Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible." Come, grab a donut and a cup of coffee, and experience the power of scripture!

SIMPLY GIVING

You may wish to consider making your 2014 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.

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.

OUR PRAYER LIST



Peggy Anderson
Joe Barillari (friend of Tom Jacobson)
Barbara Bombach (mother of Larry Bombach)
Elaine Boyer (friends of Peggy Anderson)
Emma Lou Candow
Sam Carter (friends of Peggy Anderson)
Faye Daroeian (friend of Larry Bombach)
Lorena Durston
Robert Duvall (friend of Larry Bombach)
Robert Eurice (nephew of Peggy Anderson)
Claudia Esperanza
Jane Fan and Alex Lin and family
Robert Fischman (friend of Richard Levine)
Marvin Frank (grandfather of Griffith Frank)
Bennie Goings (cousin of Ramone Muñoz)
Leah Hoffmitz (friend of Tom Jacobson)
Lois Jackson (mother of Emily Jackson-Yano)
Ted and Lynne Jackson
(family of Emily Jackson-Yano)
LCpl. Adam Johnson, USMC
(brother of Julie Johnson)
Betty Johnson (mother of John Johnson)
Jason Johnson, US Army (cousin of Julie Johnson)
Merle Johnson (grandfather of Julie Johnson)
Pastor Ray Kibler
Jonathan Kovac (brother of Deborah Kovac)
Pat Maimone
(organist at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church)
Gisela Marx
Tonia Murdock (friend of Peggy Anderson)
Steve Newberry
Pastor Carlos Paiva
Harley Rockoff (friend of Larry Bombach)
Dr. Alvaro Rojas (husband of Millie Rojas)
Mary Savage
Helena Stark (family member of the Knickerbocker's)
Millie Ross-Clunis Stephens
(friend of Sarah and Dave Knickerbocker)
Tom Stephens
(friend of Sarah and Dave Knickerbocker)
Corinne Weitzman
(friend of Tom Jacobson)
Doreen, and Gordon Widdop
(friends of Barbara Browning)
Frances Willms
Jane Withers
The plight of the Syrian Peoples
Members of the AA Groups

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER

EVERY SUNDAY Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Choir Warm-up 10:28 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.	JANUARY 2014 CALENDAR Please refer to CALENDAR at http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org for updates. Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.					
January Birthdays Francis Carter – January 2 nd Emma Maryn Rubi – January 6 th Kaitlyn Nickel – January 8 th Jeremy Nickel – January 18 th Sergey Khalikulov – January 20 th Martin Hunt – January 24 th Ryan Thorn – January 30 th Millie Rojas – January 31 st			1 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	2 No Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5	6	7 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	8 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	9 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	10	11 Jouyssance Concert 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary
12 String Orchestra Project Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 p.m. Sanctuary	13 Council/Budget and Finance Meeting 6:00 p.m.	14 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	15 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	16 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	17	18 Craft Day 11:00 a.m. Fun and Games 1:00 p.m.
19 Annual Reports Meeting After Worship String Orchestra Project Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 p.m. Sanctuary	20 Masters Notes articles due in office.	21 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	22 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	23 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	24	25
26 String Orchestra Project Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 p.m. Sanctuary	27	28 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	29 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	31	

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER

JANUARY 2014 SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

USHERS	ACOLYTE	READERS	ASSISTANT	COUNTERS
January 5	January 5	January 5 Naming of Jesus	January 5	January 5
Kevin Grant	Jeremy Nickel	Deborah Kovac Numbers 6:22-27 and Galatians 4:4-7	Yalda Riahi	Barbara Browning
Bryan Yamasaki				Ronald Nickel
January 12	January 12	January 12 Epiphany of Our Lord	January 12	January 12
Maria Gustafsson Grant	Jeremy Nickel	Fred Ascher Isaiah 60:1-6 and Ephesians 3:1-12	Deborah Kovac	Sara McGah
Julie Johnson				Joshua Nickel
January 19	January 19	January 19 Baptism of Our Lord	January 19	January 19
Kevin Grant	Jeremy Nickel	Charlene Mackenzie Isaiah 42:1-9 and Acts 10:34-43	Emily Jackson-Yano	Maria Gustafsson Grant
Bryan Yamasaki				Millie Rojas
January 26	January 26	January 26 Third Sunday after Epiphany	January 26	January 26
Emily Jackson-Yano	Jeremy Nickel	Maria Gustafsson Grant Isaiah 9:1-4 and 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Tom Jacobson	Emily Jackson-Yano
Robin Nickel				Tom Jacobson