

The Master's Notes

January 2015

Lutheran Church of The Master

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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Craig Shepherd 2000

FROM THE PASTOR

Lutheran Church of The Master has much to be thankful for. Most Lutheran congregations in LA have experienced decades of slow decline in worship attendance. Alternatively, we have had steady growth for almost 5 years. Our worship numbers have been consistently in the mid 50s, which are the best consistent worship numbers since 2001 (the year before Pastor Richards retired and my 2nd year in college). We have truly grown and I see no reason for the trend not to continue.

We have a consistently high quality worship service that impresses visitors. We have a strategic plan for the growth of the church. We are at the innovative forefront of ministry in our Lutheran Synod when it comes to welcoming diverse people.

LCM's people have always been generous but generosity to God's mission has been especially amazing recently. LCM is giving about \$30,000 more a year than the most given during the last 10 years, and gives almost twice as much per member compared to most Lutheran churches in LA. Beyond giving, our investments are properly invested to produce a high return and are consistently attended to. We not only maintain our property, but have strategically thought through improvements that will contribute to our overall mission and weekly ministries.

We are richly blessed in our ministry together. Thank you. Thank God.

Ioan Ittu, Pastor

LCM IS 75 YEARS OLD IN 2015!

This year will be a year of celebrations for Lutheran Church of The Master. Each month we will explore a different decade of the history of LCM, Los Angeles and the world. For instance, when LCM was founded in 1940, the U.S. was trying to decide whether to enter WWII, swing music was all the rage, and the Pasadena Freeway was built. Help us research your favorite decade!

In September we will have a 75-year celebration you will not want to miss. We need everyone's help in the preparation and celebrations, so if you want to join the hepcats* on the Anniversary Committee please contact Barbara Browning at (310)393-6844 or see her at church.

This is going to be a great year full of blessings for Lutheran Church of The Master!

We're going to have a "Gas"! (in the 1940's this was slang for having a good time.)

ANNUAL REPORTS CONGREGATION MEETING

Make a note on your January 2015 calendar to reserve January 18th, the date of our annual congregational meeting immediately after worship. At that meeting we will receive, review, and approve the annual reports, and consider any other pertinent business.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2015.

I wanted to thank the Church Council and everyone who worked on the 2015 budget. It's nice to have that done.

Special thanks to David York and the choir. The Christmas and Christmas Eve services were great.

As we go into 2015, we have a couple of new people on church council. I'm pleased to welcome Fariba Kharazmi and Fred Ascher. I would like to thank retiring council members Barbara Browning and Sara McGah for their years of service on council. They will continue to be involved in special projects.

Thanks to John Johnson for his art work on the external banners and thanks to Barbara for contracting with the sign company to get them in place.

2015 is likely to be a challenging year. There are several things we hope to complete; a handicap access ramp for the parish house, possibly painting the church exterior and several more projects.

If you think something is being over looked, I encourage you to get involved. Being involved with the church doesn't necessarily mean you have to be on Council. You can focus on a single issue. So if there is a pet project you have in mind, please contact us.

Kevin Grant, President

FLOWER CHART

January 4	Open
January 11	Open
January 18	Open
January 25	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.** When paying for the flowers, please include the payment in your offering envelope and **make sure to write "flowers" on the envelope.**

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS



The January - March edition of the Christ In Our Home devotional booklet is available in the parish house at the front entrance. The Large print edition is also available in the parish house. Be sure to take your copy!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our December donations, including those for New City Parish benevolence, were **\$14,996.20**, bringing our donations for 2014 to **\$150,368.21**. Many thanks to all of you for helping us surpass our goal of \$145,200!! 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 14th after worship. Twenty-two voting members attended the meeting where the Congregation Council members were elected along with the officers, and the proposed 2015 Budget was 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:

2015 Church Council

Kevin Grant (2015)
Bryan Yamasaki (2015)
Maria Gustafsson Grant (2015)
Kenneth Roehrs (2015)
Emily Jackson-Yano (2015-2016)
Fred Ascher (2015-2016)
Fariba Kharazmi (2015-2016)
Richard Levine (2015)
Joshua Nickel (2015)

2015 Officers

Kevin Grant – President
Bryan Yamasaki – Vice-President
Maria Gustafsson Grant – Secretary
Kenneth Roehrs – Treasurer
Emily Jackson-Yano – Financial Secretary

JANUARY FUN EVENT: FUN AND GAMES



On January 24th, LCM will have another Game Night in the Parish House. The night will start at 5:00 p.m. and will include dinner. 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 begin his vacation on December 29th and will be back in the office on January 20th. 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.

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 January 12th starting at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SIMPLY GIVING

You may wish to consider making your 2015 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.

COME TO OUR CRAFT DAY

We will meet on January 17th 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.

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!

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



We keep in prayer: Arash; Ardavan; David Arriola; Sister Susannah Bede; Gina Beretta; Barbara Bombach; Emma Lou Candow; Carol Clarke; Andrew Crean; Faye Daroeian; Debbie Delmonte; Robert Duvall; Jane Fan and Alex Lin and family; Scott Ferguson; Karen Friedman; Lois Jackson; Ted and Lynne Jackson; LCpl. Adam Johnson; Betty Johnson; Irwin Keyes; Lydia Kisha; Deborah Kovac; Elizabeth Kovac; Jonathan Kovac; Charlene MacKenzie; Amy Manning; Gisela Marx; Mohsen; Steve Newberry; Joe Orue; Harley Rockoff; Rosamelida Sandoval; John Savage; Brian Sedlak; Douglas Sedlak; Kathie Shinholster; Hilary Smith; Helena Stark; Kent Weed; Corinne Weitzman; Mary Ann Wright; 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.

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 2015 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 Office Closed For Holiday No Choir Rehearsal	2	3
4	5	6 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	7 Community Law Clinic 6:30 p.m. Parish House AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	8 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	9	10
11	12 Council/Budget and Finance Meeting 6:00 p.m.	13 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	14 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	15 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	16	17 Craft Day 11:00 a.m.
18 Annual Reports Meeting After Worship	19 Office Closed For Holiday	20 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	21 Community Law Clinic 6:30 p.m. Parish House AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	22 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	23 Masters Notes articles due in office	24 Fun and Games 5:00 p.m.
25	26	27 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	28 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	29 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	30	31

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER

JANUARY 2015 SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

USHERS	ACOLYTE	READERS	ASSISTANT	COUNTERS
January 4	January 4	January 4 Epiphany of Our Lord	January 4	January 4
Julie Johnson	Jeremy Nickel	Charlene Mackenzie Isaiah 60:1-6 and Ephesians 3:1-12	Deborah Kovac	Sara McGah
Carlos Valera				Joshua Nickel
January 11	January 11	January 14 Baptism of Our Lord	January 11	January 11
Fred Ascher	Jeremy Nickel	John Johnson Genesis 1:1-5 and Acts 19:1-7	Emily Jackson-Yano	Barbara Browning
Manny Cabacungan				Ronald Nickel
January 18	January 18	January 18 Second Sunday after Epiphany	January 18	January 18
Kevin Grant	Jeremy Nickel	Deborah Kovac 1 Samuel 3:1-20 and 1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Yalda Riahi	Maria Gustafsson Grant
Bryan Yamasaki				Millie Rojas
January 25	January 25	January 25 Third Sunday after Epiphany	January 25	January 25
Maria Gustafsson Grant	Jeremy Nickel	Emily Jackson-Yano Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and 1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Tom Jacobson	Emily Jackson-Yano
Julie Johnson				Tom Jacobson