

# The Master's Notes

## July 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

---

## Thoughts from Pastor Peg

Friends in Christ,

I share with you here a brief excerpt from a recent letter to rostered leaders from the ELCA's Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. She calls us to fresh diligence in responding to the realities and evils of ongoing racism. Bishop Eaton writes:

"[One year ago] the tragedy of June 17, 2015, embodied our church's tangled relationship with racism. Our relationship to the shooter – Dylan Roof, a member of an ELCA congregation – as well as two of the slain – the Rev. Clementa Pinckney and the Rev. Daniel Simmons, graduates of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C. – remind us of both our complicity and our calling. Together we confess that we are in bondage to the sin of racism and, at the same time, we rejoice in the freedom that is ours in Christ Jesus who "has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Ephesians 2:14). May God continue to guide us as we seek repentance and renewal, racial justice and reconciliation among God's precious children!"

I join Bishop Eaton in prayers for racial justice and reconciliation in church and society. I interned in a congregation in Greensboro, N.C. that enjoyed an ethnic make-up of 85% African-American and 15% white. I was a minority. What a joy to sing in the choir where there was me, a red head and the rest were black. What a sound! And what an oddity in 1979 in the Lutheran Church. I loved it. And I love the ethnic diversity we are at LCM! What a joy to hear the gospel

in 11 languages on Pentecost, from those who actually speak Russian, Farsi, Spanish, Swedish, Indonesian, Italian, German, French... And what even greater joy to know God loves us all.

The ELCA also knows that racism is alive and well in church and society. People like me continue to hold privilege simply because we are white. I grew up assuming I could get a college education because that's what many white people did. Not all, of course. My mother's family didn't – from a poor Swedish immigrant family, but my father's family did – a long heritage of education. It took my mom great courage to make her way through college as the first person in her family to get even a junior high education. My dad, however, had to choose between Princeton and Stanford and always felt a bit of chagrin for breaking the east coast family line of Princeton attendees and to go to Stanford. Whatever our background, it affects us in one way or another, but privilege is most often connected to white European backgrounds. What are we to do to break out of assumptions of privilege?

A first thing to do is to acknowledge it. To deny there is privilege denies reality. Bishop Eaton names our complicity with racism. A second thing is reach out beyond our places of comfort. LCM does this and I am grateful. A third thing is to listen when those who are different from us speak of their experience. It is wise to let each other tell our own stories and to really hear with heart, mind and action. A fourth thing is to cross over time honored barriers. Jesus does this. Many stories of Jesus show him crossing religious, ethnic, gender, age, economic, geographic, health boundaries. Jesus leads the way.

*(continued on back)*

Celebrate God's beautiful diversity of creation. Cross a boundary today. Meet a new friend who is different from you. Rejoice, be glad. God is at hand in diversity. And invite a friend to worship! In Christ, in whose presence there is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11b).

*Pastor Peg*

## From the President

Well, it's summertime, and the choir is now on hiatus. I'd like to thank them and David York for a wonderful season. We will have soloists from the choir visiting us over the summer months.

There was no church council meeting in June. At the last minute, we had several cancellations due to traveling and illness.

Our game nights are becoming even more popular. I received a special request to search for bridge players for game night. Bridge is a pretty complicated game, but I know somewhere out there we must have a few bridge players. Please contact me.

I'd like to thank everybody who donated to Memory Month this year. The worship committee will be studying how to spend the money best to improve the candle lighting area.

The call process continues at a slow pace. I'm sure that will pick up in July and August.

And as I say every Sunday, think about what we are doing at the church and how you would like to participate or contribute.

*Kevin Grant, President*

## From the Synod Assembly

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Peg, Joshua Nickel, and Robin Nickel attended the 2016 Synod Assembly as the representatives of LCM. This year's theme was "Welcoming the Stranger". Something new they tried this year was having June 2<sup>nd</sup> as special day filled with workshops that anyone could attend. Robin along with Barbara Browning were honored to attend a workshop called "Becoming a Dementia Friendly Congregation". Robin and Joshua were also able to attend another workshop on June 3<sup>rd</sup> called "Practice Discipleship: Re-energize Your Confirmation Students." Overall, we felt that the special day of workshops worked out great.

Some of the highlights from the Assembly included hearing what they called "Witnesses to Welcome" stories. These were testimonies of people's journeys of arriving in America with nothing and how finding a church and how the church helped change their lives.

They once were a stranger in a big city, but now they are welcome and part of a bigger family of God. Hearing their stories were moving to us all. The synod has placed the "Welcome to Witness" stories on YouTube. You can view these stories at <https://www.youtube.com/user/socalsynod>

There were Five Resolutions passed:

1. Resolution on ELCA World Hunger and Child Nutrition
2. Resolution on Becoming a Lutheran Restoring Creation Synod
3. Resolution on Eco-Reformation in the Context of Climate Change
4. Resolution on Divestment
5. Resolution on Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery

If you would like more information on them, go to [www.socalsynod.org](http://www.socalsynod.org) and click on Synod Assembly Report 2016.

Finally, this coming year marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. The SWCA Synod will be taking the story of Martin Luther and his teachings on the road! In a series of paired lectures, one will be introductory and the other more in depth. The lectures will be led by Bishop Guy Erwin. The dates and times and locations will be announced soon. Please look for a flyer with all the dates coming soon.

## Financial Update

Greetings! Our donations totaled **\$10,234.05** in May and **\$16,123.45** in June; this brings our General Fund giving through June 30<sup>th</sup> to **\$70,176.55** or **48.40%** of our 2016 goal of **\$145,000**. Donations for Memory Month in May and June totaled **\$3,528.72**.

Thank you for your generosity!

*Emily Jackson-Yano, Financial Secretary*

## Flower Chart

July 3	Open
July 10	Open
July 17	Celebrating the memory and birthday of Carolyn Harthan
July 24	Open
July 31	In honor of Katherine Hunt's birthday.

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 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.**

## Memory Month 2016

Memory Month has been a tradition at Lutheran Church of The Master for many years. In the time between Mother's Day and Father's Day, we welcome donations from everyone to honor or remember a loved one or special person in their lives. The donations are then used for a special project to enhance our worship or make property improvements.



Thanks to Pastor Richards, Millie Rojas and Sara McGah, we have had a candle lighting area in our sanctuary for many years. Many people remember loved ones each Sunday during our worship service by lighting a candle in this space. In reviewing our Strategic Plan for 2016, the Worship Group recommended that we enhance the candle lighting area. Therefore, the council approved the enhancement of the candle lighting area as our Memory Month Project from May 8<sup>th</sup> through June 19<sup>th</sup>. The Worship Group will do the research on a fire-safe plan and present it to the congregation for input. Your donations can make this Memory Month Project a reality. Thank you!

We are thankful for donations received in memory of, or in honor of:

- In memory of George and Florence Basner
- In honor of Barbara Browning and all of LCM family
- In memory of Elva and Albert Browning
- In memory of Ken and Kathy Clower
- In memory of Lillian and Don Foltz
- In memory of my mother, Zahra Gerami
- In memory of the Harthans - Mike, Peggy and Carolyn
- In memory of Eugene Jacobson
- In memory of George, Mary, Bobby, Dorothy and Thomas Kisha
- In honor of Elizabeth Kovac
- In memory of John Kovac
- In memory of Lorne and Dorothy MacLeod
- In memory of Tom and Russella McGah
- In memory of Arkie and Anne Morgenthaler
- In memory of Richard Nickel
- In memory of Stephen Eddy Richards
- In honor of Kathaleen Richards Ricketts
- In memory of Richard Wetts
- In memory of Richard and Martha Williams
- In honor of Badri, Negin, Ali, Maryam, Hamid, Mohzgan, Nima, Christy, Steve and Larry
- In honor of the Shepherd family's years as members of LCM

## Celebrating our LCM Family

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, John Theodore Clower was baptized surrounded by family and friends.

Tom Jacobson received the Celebration Theatre's Chuck Rowland Award for his role in championing and advancing theatrical works for the LGBT theatre community.

Joshua Nickel graduated from Santa Monica City College on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Fred Ascher co-authored a book, **X Child Stars: Where are they now?** See Fred if you would like a copy.

**We need to take time to congratulate these members of our LCM family!**

## Helping The Homeless

The Charitable Works Committee provides sack lunches and hygiene kits for John Johnson to give to our homeless friends in the community when they knock at our door. We would welcome your participation in this work. The sack lunches include individual packaged items, such as easy open cans of meat, fruit, pudding, cheese and crackers, energy/protein bars, juices and water. We also include treats such as cookies, nuts and granola bars. There is a sample sack lunch in the narthex and a basket for you to contribute to this work as you are able. Thank you for helping the homeless!

## Come to our Craft Day



We will meet on July 16<sup>th</sup> 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 July - September 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!

## God's Work Our Hands Habitat for Humanity



Get ready to lend your hands at the Habitat for Humanity Restore in September. We will be going to the Restore in Torrance. We will go some Saturday in September. The date will be announced next month.

**What do we do?** We help organize and restock shelves, empty truckloads of furniture and even have time to do some shopping and purchase some items for ourselves or others. This year we will meet at the church and carpool to Torrance.

**For those of you who were unable to join us last year here is a snapshot of what the Habitat for Humanity ReStores are all about.** They are nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centers that sell new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, building materials to the public at a fraction of the retail price.

ReStores are independently owned and operated by local Habitat for Humanity organizations. Proceeds are used to help build homes and shelters in local communities and around the world.

Please plan to attend. If you have further questions, please call Barbara Browning (310) 393-6844.

## 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, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 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. Come, grab a donut, pour a cup of coffee, and experience the power of scripture.

## Community Law Clinic

The Malakouti Community Law Clinic continues on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every Month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish House

Attorney Parviz Malakouti is available to answer your questions regarding your legal problems. Each clinic participant will receive a private 15-minute session to ask questions about a wide variety of civil legal matters. Criminal law issues will not be addressed at the clinic. The service is completely free of charge to participants. Languages spoken include English, Spanish, Persian, and French. Parviz Malakouti is a California licensed attorney and a graduate of UCLA and the University of Miami School of Law.

## Our Prayer List



**We keep in prayer:** Abbas, Ali, Arash, Ardavan, Bobbie Arkoff, the Family and Friends of Jason Avila, Fariba, Roya, Soraya, Yasaman, David Arriola, Mary Martha Barkley, Gina Beretta, Zac Biggs, 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, Emmett Fisher, Ladante Fisher, the Family of Rev. Scott Haasarud, Jacqueline Hunt, Malinda J., Ted and Lynne Jackson, Betty Johnson, Merle Johnson, Rossen Kirilov, the Family of Dottie Knight, Elizabeth Kovac, Jonathan Kovac, Tobi Krawczyk, B. J. Lange, Gisela Marx, Steve Newberry, Rachel and her unborn child, the family of Adam Rambo, the Reul Family, Harley Rockoff, Millie Rojas, Rosamelida Sandoval, Bryan Sanders, the Family and Friends of John Savage, the Wendy Schultz Family, the Family and Friends of Lee Silverman, Hilary Smith, Alireza Soulati, Helena Stark, Peter Stackhouse, Gordon Stark, Polina Tashlitskaya, John Warren, Kent Weed, Ryan and Ethan 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.

# Lutheran Church of The Master

Every Sunday	<b>July 2016 Calendar</b>						
<b>Bible Study</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Worship</b> 11:00 a.m. <b>Fellowship</b> 12:15 p.m.	Please refer to CALENDAR at <a href="http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org">http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org</a> for updates.						
<b>Church Office Hours:</b>							
<b>Monday – Friday - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b>							
<b>July Birthdays</b>							
<b>Bryan Yamasaki – July 8<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Tina Appel - July 10<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Chris Ah San – July 11<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Greg Sliskovich – July 19<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Charles Bialek – July 24<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Pastor Ioan Ittu - July 30<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Alex Fan - July 30<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Katherine Hunt - July 31<sup>st</sup></b>						<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	
		AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	Community Law Clinic 6:30 p.m. Parish House  AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>Choir Rehearsals Resume in September</b>			
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	
		<b>Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Sanctuary</b>  AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary			<b>Craft Day 11:00 a.m.</b>	
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	
		AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	Community Law Clinic 6:30 p.m. Parish House  AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary		<b>Masters Notes articles due in office.</b>		
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>31</b>		AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary				

# Lutheran Church of The Master

## July 2016 Schedule

(Subject to Change)

<b>USHERS</b>	<b>READERS</b>	<b>ASSISTANT</b>	<b>COUNTERS</b>
<b>JULY 3</b>	<b>JULY 3</b> <b>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>JULY 3</b>	<b>JULY 3</b>
Kevin Grant	John Johnson Isaiah 66:10-14 and Galatians 6:1-16	Emily Jackson-Yano	Maria Gustafsson Grant
Bryan Yamasaki			Joshua Nickel
<b>JULY 10</b>	<b>JULY 10</b> <b>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>JULY 10</b>	<b>JULY 10</b>
Richard Levine	Charles Peruchini Deuteronomy 30:9-14 and Colossians 1:1-14	Deborah Kovac	Barbara Browning
Julie Johnson			Tom Jacobson
<b>JULY 17</b>	<b>JULY 17</b> <b>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>JULY 17</b>	<b>JULY 17</b>
Fred Ascher	Fred Ascher Genesis 18:1-10a and Colossians 1:15-28	Tom Jacobson	Tom Jacobson
Manny Cabacungan			Ronald Nickel
<b>JULY 24</b>	<b>JULY 24</b> <b>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>JULY 24</b>	<b>JULY 24</b>
Richard Levine	Millie Rojas Genesis 18:20-32 and Colossians 2:6-19	Emily Jackson-Yano	Emily Jackson-Yano
Julie Johnson			Ronald Nickel
<b>JULY 31</b>	<b>JULY 31</b> <b>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>JULY 31</b>	<b>JULY 31</b>
Kevin Grant	Maria Gustafsson-Grant Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 and Colossians 3:1-11	Deborah Kovac	Maria Gustafsson Grant
Carlos Valera			Joshua Nickel