

# The Master's Notes

## March 2014

### 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**

A pastor that preached at LCM recently told me that she does her best preaching at our church. There is something about being with us inspires her to take risks and lets the best of her rise to the surface. I told her that I feel like you are willing to try to hear the best in what I'm saying, and forgive the parts I mess up on. I compared your gracious understanding to how some African American preachers feel encouraged when "Amen!" and "Preach!" get called out in that church culture. This giving and receiving and encouraging makes preaching something we in the end do together with the Holy Spirit.

A lot of our ministry is something that we get done together where multiple hands make light work and each gets to share their strengths with the community. The important decisions at our church happen through a council and in discussion. Our ministry plan is the result of many people's ideas. More and more we are becoming a place where different people can express their faith through helping with some part of our ministry. I think the linchpin to all this participation and collaboration is the grace and understanding I experience while preaching. Being a place that looks past people's flaws and sees the best in what is being offered is one of the beautiful aspects that makes us a welcoming church. Thank you and keep it up.

*Ioan Ittu, Pastor*

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Again this month I'm soliciting the opinions of the church members who normally don't come to the Council meetings. The good news is church attendance is slowly and steadily increasing. We are averaging about fifty people a Sunday. But for the long-term health of the church we probably need closer to

seventy-five or even a hundred people a Sunday.

I think Pastor Ittu's preaching style and positive attitude is attracting new members and people are always complimenting the quality of the music program. So that's two things we're definitely doing right. Most of the new members find us via the website, and now that website is very easy to edit. We do a pretty good job of keeping it up to date. But I'm always wondering what else we could do.

I think you've heard me talk about the visibility of the church. I once ordered pizza for lunch and they tried to deliver it to the Mormon Temple. The driver called me on his cell and I gave him directions. He had been working at the same pizzeria for two years. He told me, "Sorry, I didn't know there was a church here." I've heard this from visitors too. To correct this problem the visibility committee has talked about painting the church different colors, getting a LED sign or weaving a cross into the church's shingles the next time we redo the roof. What do you think?

Increased membership means we have to do something to accommodate more people during lunch and other functions. The Council has talked about building a pergola in the grassy area by the parking lot. Most of the time in California it's nice enough to eat outside and sometimes it gets pretty noisy in the parish house. The only downside might be some homeless people would camp out underneath it. And unfortunately many of the homeless are mentally ill and combative.

So what do you think? Would painting the church a different color attract people? What would get us noticed? Would a pergola be a good thing? Or should we just have lunch in the pews? Feel free to email me at [geneticmind@yahoo.com](mailto:geneticmind@yahoo.com)

*Kevin Grant, President*

## FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

### Connections

Much of what we do at church each week involves connections— connections we make with God and with one another.

In worship some find a connection to God through prayer, liturgy, the spoken word or with music. For others the Bible Study before worship each Sunday morning offers an opportunity to deepen their spiritual connectedness.

We may connect with each other at the Sign of Peace, during the brunch following worship or when we attend one of the monthly social activities. Participating in a small group such as the craft group or the choir is another way to unite.

Choir members enjoy the time spent together each week preparing music for Sunday worship. But in addition to musical rehearsal time we also laugh, share and celebrate. We have the opportunity to create personal connections with others.

One of the wonderful things about the connections we make is that they can remain strong even with the passage of time or with distance or separation. Recently we've connected and reconnected with some current and former choir friends:

Former tenor soloist **Griffith Frank** returned to LCM to join the choir for a performance of Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass".

**Russell Fung**, a member of the tenor section during his time at UCLA, was part of a group from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee recently recognized with a \$25 million grant for a project that could transform the way scientists study diseases.

In January we were happy to welcome **Madeline Barnacle** as a new member of the alto section.

Also in January we greeted Ryan Thorn's parents, **Linda and Jim Burch**, visiting from chilly Wisconsin.

Former tenor section leader **Jeff Fichtner** recently stopped by to offer greetings before departing on a long trip to South America for a film project.

We miss Baritone **Daniel Cheng** who moved to Chicago in January. He's singing at a large Catholic church there and writes: "The director and singers are really nice but I miss the tight-knit community at LCM! As a day job, I was able to land a crew member position at a Trader Joe's in downtown Chicago. It's a

great job so far and will help pay the college loans off now that they're due! Most of all, IT'S SO COLD!!!"

Soprano section leader **Kelci Hahn** is proud that one of the Hamilton High School choirs she directs has been invited to sing for the broadcast of the Academy Awards.

Former bass section leader **Sergey Khalikulov**, who is attending the San Francisco Conservatory of Music writes, "I am doing really well, super busy....three operas, a musical, and a recital in the next 4 months. Then I graduate and need to start auditioning for things...the real world and stuff." He continues, "Tell everyone I say HELLO!!!! I miss working with Y'all. I have been working at three churches on and off here....they have all been fun, but they are nowhere near as fun or personal as LCM. I realize how special LCM really is and I miss it..."

This month as we approach the season of Lent there will many chances for us to strengthen our personal and spiritual connections. I hope you'll join me in seeking opportunities for growth during this holy season.

*David York*, Minister of Music

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

In February you donated **\$9,996.00** to our general fund, bring our year-to-date donations to **\$18,251.00** (which is **12.57%** of our 2014 budget goal of **\$145,200**). Thank you for your support of Lutheran Church of the Master and its outreach!

*Emily Jackson-Yano*, Financial Secretary

### FLOWER CHART



March 2	Open
March 8	Open
March 16	In honor of Pastor Richards's birthday.
March 23	In honor of Mrs. Candow's birthday.
March 30	Open

If you wish to memorialize someone or an event, please note that with your name on the flower chart. **Just a reminder, 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.**

## A CELEBRATION OF BABIES

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, immediately after the Worship Service

Katherine and Martin Hunt and Ginger and Kyle Clower are expecting baby girls in March! We will celebrate with a special luncheon in anticipation of the "new arrivals". As gifts, please bring your favorite storybook from your childhood – the same one for each baby. Please personalize the books with a message and your signature.

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. We will commemorate Ash Wednesday here at Lutheran Church of The Master on March 5th, at 7:30 p.m. in worship with our partner congregation, Westwood Hills Congregational Church. Pastor Ittu and Pastor Linford will conduct the service and the imposition of ashes.

### TIME CHANGE



**Reminder:** Set your clocks forward one hour, Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, before you go to bed. The LA Marathon Water Station will begin at 7:00 a.m. Daylight Savings Time, on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>!!

## LA MARATHON SUNDAY MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>



Lutheran Church of The Master will volunteer at water station 19 in front of the church on that Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Limited accessibility during the Marathon to our property prevents us from having our worship at the regular 11:00 a.m. Sunday time. There will be **no worship that Sunday** and instead will have a day of service in the community by passing out water. There will be an **evening worship service on Saturday night** the 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. If you would like to help with the Marathon, please sign up with Robin ahead of time by calling or emailing the church office. You can also register through the church website.

## SATURDAY EVENING VESPERS SERVICE MARCH 8TH

Lutheran Church of The Master will host a Vespers Service on Saturday evening since our property won't be easily accessible to us on that Sunday due to the Marathon passing directly in front of church on Santa Monica Blvd. The service will be a simplified evening liturgy with cantor, designed to help us end the day in thankfulness for all God has done for us.

## LENTEN OFFERING: HELP FIGHT MALARIA



**ELCA Malaria Campaign**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

A child dies every 60 seconds from malaria somewhere around the world. It costs \$2 to buy a course of malaria medication to treat someone who is infected with malaria. We at Lutheran Church of The Master are participating through our Lent offering in global Lutheran effort at making Malaria history. Our goal is to raise \$1000 in Lenten gifts as our part in the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Please consider giving to this special cause.

## HAPPY NOWRUZ!!! (PERSIAN NEW YEAR)

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Lutheran Church of The Master will enjoy the cultural diversity of our congregation with a brunch of Persian food in celebration of the Persian New Year. Those interested can join us at 2:30 p.m. after church at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for a Persian New Year celebration live performances, music, storytelling, calligraphy for children, the traditional Nowruz display known as Haft Sîn, and a traditional Iranian costume parade.

## COME TO OUR CRAFT DAY



We will meet on March 15<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.

## 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.

## COME TO OUR MEETINGS



Everyone is invited to attend our meetings. Our Council/Finance Meeting will be on March 10<sup>th</sup> 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!

## SIMPLY GIVING

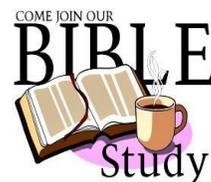


You may wish to consider making your 2014 contributions online. Contributions may be made to Lutheran Church of The Master with the secure Electronic Giving service of Vanco Services and Thrivent for Lutherans, using the Simply Giving link on the church website:

**[lutheran.churchofthemaster.org](http://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.

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY



Every **Sunday morning** at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish House., you can come 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!

## TO CONTACT PASTOR ITTU



To meet with Pastor, contact him directly at his church e-mail address: [iittu@lutheran.churchofthemaster.org](mailto: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.

## OUR PRAYER LIST



We keep in prayer: Peggy Anderson; Joe Barillari; Gina Beretta; Barbara Bombach; Elaine Boyer; Emma Lou Candow; Sam Carter; Carol Clarke; Faye Daroeian; Chandra Drazich; Robert Duvall; Robert Eurice; Jane Fan and Alex Lin and family; Marvin Frank; Karen Friedman; Bennie Goings; Leah Hoffmitz; Lois Jackson; Ted and Lynne Jackson; LCpl. Adam Johnson; Betty Johnson; Jason Johnson; Merle Johnson; Jonathan Kovac; Gisela Marx; Tonia Murdock; Steve Newberry; Pastor Carlos Paiva; Harley Rockoff; Dr. Alvaro Rojas; Mary Savage; Helena Stark; Millie Ross-Clunis Stephens; Tom Stephens; Maggie Sutcliffe; Corinne Weitzman; 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

<b>EVERY SUNDAY</b>  Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Choir Warm-up 10:28 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.	<b>MARCH 2014 CALENDAR</b>  Please refer to CALENDAR at <a href="http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org">http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org</a> for updates.  Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.					
<b>February Birthdays</b>  Ronald Nickel – March 3 <sup>rd</sup> Julie Johnson – March 12 <sup>th</sup> Pastor Robert Richards – March 14 <sup>th</sup> Kelci Hahn – March 16 <sup>th</sup> Kyle Clower – March 20 <sup>th</sup> Bryan Sanders – March 21 <sup>st</sup>						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>  Baby Celebration after Worship   String Orchestra Project Rehearsal 4:30-7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>    AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	<b>5</b>  Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m.  Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m. at LCM  AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Parish House	<b>6</b>  No Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Evening Vespers Service 5:00 p.m. at LCM
<b>9</b>  LA Marathon No Worship at LCM  String Orchestra Project Rehearsal 4:30-7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>10</b>  Council/Budget and Finance Meeting 6:00 p.m.	<b>11</b>    AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	<b>12</b>    AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>13</b>  Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Craft Day 11:00 a.m.
<b>16</b>    String Orchestra Project Rehearsal 4:30-7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>    AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	<b>19</b>  Masters Notes articles due in office.  AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>20</b>  Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>  String Orchestra Project Rehearsal 4:30-7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>  String Orchestra Project Rehearsal 4:30-7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	<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

## MARCH 2014 SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

<b>USHERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	<b>READERS</b>	<b>ASSISTANT</b>	<b>COUNTERS</b>
<b>March 2</b>	<b>March 2</b>	<b>March 2</b> <b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b>	<b>March 2</b>	<b>March 2</b>
Fred Ascher	Jeremy Nickel	Julie Johnson Exodus 24:12-18 <b>and</b> 2 Peter 1:16-21	Deborah Kovac	Barbara Browning
Manny Cabacungan				Ronald Nickel
<b>March 8</b>	<b>March 8</b>	<b>March 8</b> <b>Evening Vespers Service</b>	<b>March 8</b>	<b>March 8</b>
Robin Nickel		Robin Nickel Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 <b>and</b> Matthew 4:1-11		Sara McGah
				Joshua Nickel
<b>March 16</b>	<b>March 16</b>	<b>March 16</b> <b>Second Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>March 16</b>	<b>March 16</b>
Maria Gustafsson Grant	Jeremy Nickel	Kim Hedlin Genesis 12:1-4a <b>and</b> Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	Tom Jacobson	Maria Gustafsson Grant
Julie Johnson				Millie Rojas
<b>March 23</b>	<b>March 23</b>	<b>March 23</b> <b>Third Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>March 23</b>	<b>March 23</b>
Julie Johnson	Jeremy Nickel	Maria Gustafsson Grant Exodus 17:1-7 <b>and</b> Romans 5:1-11	Yalda Riahi	Robin Nickel
Robin Nickel				Hazel Wetts
<b>March 30</b>	<b>March 30</b>	<b>March 30</b> <b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>March 30</b>	<b>March 30</b>
Kevin Grant	Jeremy Nickel	Fred Ascher 1 Samuel 16:1-13 <b>and</b> Ephesians 5:8-14	Emily Jackson-Yano	Emily Jackson-Yano
Bryan Yamasaki				Tom Jacobson