

The Master's Notes

March 2017

Lutheran Church of The Master

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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Craig Shepherd 2000

Ash Wednesday Worship With Holy Communion

Wednesday, March 1st, 2017
7:30 p.m. at LCM
Combined Chancel Choirs

Again this year it is our joy to worship at LCM with guests from Westwood Hills Congregational Church. Their pastor, Rev. Kirsten Linford will preach and Pastor Peg will preside at Holy Communion. The imposition of ashes will be offered. Combined Chancel Choirs from these two churches will lift our souls with song as we enter this holy season.

Thoughts from Pastor Peg

On the vitality of prayer!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Whether we eat meals at home on our own, or in the company of others, prayer invokes God's presence as we give thanks – thus asserting there are always at least two breaking bread together and more as we pray for others whether present or not. The same can be said of prayer at night, or when we rise in the morning. To invoke God's presence is to entrust our rest to God's love: "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep."

Do you have a special prayer you offer before meals, or when you go to sleep, or rise in the morning? I asked around the church the other day and all shared that "Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed" was their childhood meal prayer. For Madeline there was also a second part: "And may there be a healthy share on every table, everywhere."

Madeline also inquired about her Dad's prayer, as he grew up Catholic. His equally beloved childhood meal prayer was "Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty." Various versions of the Doxology were also noted as often beginning the same, but the ending varyingly: "praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost," or others sang "may feast in paradise with thee."

Martin Luther wrote passionately about the first and last words of our day, and about giving thanks at meal times. His *Small Catechism* includes both a Morning and Evening Prayer. (Join us on Sundays of Lent at 10 a.m. as we re-discover the *Small Catechism*.) We may want to reword Luther's prayers for today's world, but the ritual of prayer at set times is one to consider. If you don't already pray at meals, or if you would enjoy some fresh suggestions, a lovely annual book *Bread for the Day (Augsburg)* offers a Table Prayer for each season of the church year.

The Table Prayer for the Season of Lent

(Lent begins March 1st)

Blessed are you, O God, giver of all.

You adorn our tables with food

And give companionship for our journeys.

Be present with us as we are fed in body and spirit
that our sharing this meal is a sign of your life
broken and shared for the world.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer matters because it turns our hearts toward the one who can do better by us and those for whom we pray than we can ever do by ourselves. Prayer acknowledges both our need for God and our trust that God loves us and walks with us always, no matter what!

Rejoicing daily to be praying with you, *Pastor Peg*

From the Minister of Music

The Great Litany



On Ash Wednesday (3/1) we enter the season of Lent, the 40-day period extending through Easter (excluding Sundays) devoted to penitence and introspection. Services and the worship environment will be somber and contemplative until the great celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Day (4/16).

On the First Sunday in Lent the service will begin with the Great Litany, an extended sung prayer asking for God's forgiveness and mercy. A Litany is a form of prayer used in services and processions consisting of a number of petitions said or sung in a responsive fashion between leader and people.

As I read about the Great Litany this week I learned that it is the first existing piece of liturgy in the English language. The litany was written by Thomas Cramner, a major reformer of the Church of England who was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury during the reign of Henry VIII. Cramner helped Henry separate the English church from Rome and managed the king's annulment from his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

Henry commissioned Cramner to write the Litany because, at the time, it was the practice for litanies to be offered during processions through public neighborhoods and the king noticed that people were not responding and joining in the Latin prayers. He perceived that this was because the people "*understode no parte of suche prayers or suffrages as were used to be songe and sayde.*" He decreed that a litany be written in English, the language of the people.

Cramner drew his texts for the Great Litany from Medieval sources, including the German liturgy of Martin Luther. The author of the spiritual blog "On the Road to Emmaus" writes: "In the Great Litany, nearly every general area of prayer is addressed including

prayer for various aspects of the church, the world, the government, and the poor. These petitions are prefaced by a series of requests asking God to deliver us from all manner of afflictions: evil, sin, heresy, schism, natural disasters, political disasters, violence, death, etc."

The Great Litany has meaning that is at once both ancient and modern: petitions for deliverance from "all evil; from the cunning assaults of the devil; from an unprepared and evil death" as well as requests to "watch over children and guide the young; forgive our enemies... and reconcile us to them."

Join us on the first Sunday in Lent as together we pray that God "give us peace."

David York, Minister of Music

From the President



Highlights of the February Council Meeting:

- Tom Jacobson and Deborah Kovac joined us with questions about the Call Process.
- Pastor Schultz-Akerson guided a discussion about the Reflection Process and best practices for social and email interaction within faith.
- Joshua Nickel expects to have Air Conditioning quotes for the Sanctuary in March. He has also been working with an exterminator for controlling pests. The rewiring of a recording microphone is moving ahead.
- We discussed issues with carpeting in the Choir Loft area, and the cost of repairing gouges in the cement floor in Sanctuary.
- Barbara Browning presented a solution for the candle lighting area. We are researching possibilities for a new Baptismal Font. We reviewed our commitment to painting the church in 2017 and, hopefully, re-roofing the church in 2018.
- From our budgeted benevolence, we donated money to support summer camps at "Lutheran Retreats Camps & Conferences (LRCC)" and "Another Level", and to support to St. Paul's internship program. LRCC includes camps Luther Glen, Yolijwa, and El Camino Pines. In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation we are helping sponsor 500 trees needed to keep these Lutheran camps ecologically sustainable.

Kevin Grant, President

Time Change



Reminder: Set your clocks forward one hour, Saturday, March 11th, before you go to bed. Worship will begin at 11:00 a.m. Daylight Savings Time, on Sunday, March 12th!!

Financial Update

In February you donated a total of **\$7,284.01** to our General operating fund. This brings our year-to-date total to **\$17,266.04** or **11.84%** of our 2017 goal of **\$145,875**. Thank you!

Emily Jackson-Yano, Financial Secretary

Special Saturday Worship Service March 18th

There will be a special evening worship service including communion at LCM on Saturday, March 18th at 5:00 p.m. to compensate for not having a service on Sunday, March 19th due to the L.A. Marathon.

LA Marathon Sunday March 19th



Lutheran Church of The Master will volunteer at Water Station 19 in front of the church on Sunday, March 19th from 6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Limited accessibility during the marathon to our property

prevents us from having worship at the regular 11:00 a.m. Sunday time. There will be no worship that Sunday and instead we will have a day of community service passing out water. If you would like to help, please go to the church website and follow directions to register, or talk with Joshua Nickel.

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 **Saturday, March 18th at 1:00 p.m.** All are welcome to attend.

ELCA World Hunger's 40 DAYS of Giving 2017



This year our Lenten offering will go toward the ELCA World Hunger's 40 DAYS of Giving 2017. Our goal is to raise \$1,000.00 above and beyond our regular giving. We are joining other ELCA congregations in a church wide effort to raise 1.5 million dollars.

Flower Chart



March 5	Open
March 12	In honor of Julie Johnson's Birthday.
March 19	Open
March 26	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 2017 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.**

Small Catechism Study



Why study and talk about the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Commandments, Holy Baptism and Communion? These are ways God encounters us, and when we listen to

God our lives shine anew! Join Pastor Peg in the Parish House for a five-part discussion of Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Thank you to Leah Chang for preparing the cover art for the catechism booklet.

We will meet:

- ✦ Sunday, March 5th at 10:00 a.m.
- ✦ Sunday, March 12th at 10:00 a.m.
- ✦ Saturday, March 18th at 4:00 p.m.
(before our special worship service at 5:00 p.m.)
- ✦ Sunday, March 26th at 10:00 a.m.
- ✦ Sunday, April 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

Free Community Law Forum

March 8th



Attorney Parviz Malakouti will host a special Community Law Forum on Wednesday, March 8th at 6:30 p.m. where we will hold a group discussion on immigration concerns. The forum is free to attend. The usual Community Law Clinic, where free legal consultations are provided to individuals, will not be held this Wednesday, March 1st because of Ash Wednesday Services, but will resume Wednesday, March 15th.

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.

Master's 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's Notes delivered to you through your email? If you would like to be added to the list, contact us at mastersnotes@lutheran.churchofthemaster.org.

Large-Print Bulletins

Did you know that the worship bulletins are available in large-print format on Sunday mornings? Thanks to John Johnson, who instigated 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.

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.

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.

Our Prayer List



We keep in prayer: Bobbie Arkoff, the family and friends of Jason Avila, Tony Avila, Yasaman, David Arriola, Norma Barker, Gina Beretta, Barbara Bombach, Melissa Bomes, Yuby Calderon, Francoise Campoverde, Emma Lou Candow, Sonia Casas, Victoria and J. W. Chavier Sr., Andrew Crean, the family of Estelle Day, Edita Cabacungan Donnelly and family, Sara Ehrman, Bensiyon Eyice, Ali FarzinKia, Emmett Fisher, Ladante Fisher, the family and friends of Barbara Foss, the family and friends of Bob Guyett, Badri and Negin Hunold, Katherine, Martin and Gloria Hunt, Malinda J., Ted and Lynne Jackson, Betty Johnson, Merle Johnson, Rosana Johnson, the family of Roy Johnson, Mary Kay, Rossen Kirilov, the family of Daniel Kisha, the family of Doris Kisha, the family and friends of Dottie Knight, Elizabeth Kovac, Jonathan Kovac, Peter Lewis, Ma, Jeff, Debi and the family, Gisela Marx, Frank Nakamura, Steve Newberry, Bobby Orue, the family and friends of Rev. Carlos Paiva, the family and friends of Adam Rambo, the Reul family, Harley Rockoff, Millie Rojas, Rosamelida Sandoval, Lou Scagnelli, Hilary Smith, Alireza Soulati, Peter Stackhouse, Gordon Stark, Polina Tashlitskaya, John Warren, Kent Weed, Mary Ellen Wollmers, 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 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Choir Warm-up 10:28 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m.	<h2 style="margin: 0;">March 2017 Calendar</h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 0; font-size: 0.9em;">Please refer to CALENDAR at http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org for updates.</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 0; font-size: 0.9em; text-align: center;">Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</p>					
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><u>March Birthdays</u></p> Ronald Nickel – March 3 rd Carlos Valera – March 6 th Julie Johnson – March 12 th Pastor Robert Richards – March 14 th Kelci Hahn – March 16 th Kyle Clower – March 20 th Bryan Sanders – March 21 st			<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1</p> Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m. at LCM AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Parish House	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">2</p> No Choir Rehearsal		
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">5</p> Small Catechism Study 10:00 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">7</p> AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">8</p> Community Law Fourm on Immigration 6:30 p.m. Parish House AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">9</p> Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">11</p>
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">12</p> Daylight Savings Time Starts Move Clocks Forward 1 Hour Small Catechism Study 10:00 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">14</p> AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">15</p> Community Law Clinic 6:30 p.m. Parish House AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">16</p> Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">18</p> Council Meeting 1:00 p.m. Parish House Small Catechism Study 4:00 p.m. Evening Worship Service 5:00 p.m. at LCM
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">19</p> LA Marathon Water Station 6:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. No Worship at LCM	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">20</p> Masters Notes articles due in office.	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">21</p> AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">22</p> AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">23</p> Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">25</p>
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">26</p> Small Catechism Study 10:00 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">28</p> AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">29</p> AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">30</p> Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">31</p>	

Lutheran Church of The Master

March 2017 Schedule

(Subject to Change)

USHERS	READERS	ASSISTANT	COUNTERS
March 1	March 1 Ash Wednesday	March 1	March 1
Kevin Grant	Kim Hedlin Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 and 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10	Maria Gustafsson Grant	
Richard Levine			
March 5	March 5 First Sunday in Lent	March 5	March 5
Richard Levine	Charlene MacKenzie Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 and Romans 5:12-19	Deborah Kovac	Barbara Browning
Carlos Valera			Joshua Nickel
March 12	March 12 Second Sunday in Lent	March 12	March 12
Leah Chang	Millie Rojas Genesis 12:1-4a and Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	Emily Jackson-Yano	Emily Jackson-Yano
Julie Johnson			Ronald Nickel
March 18 (Saturday, 5:00 p.m.)	March 18 Third "Sunday" in Lent (Saturday, 5:00 p.m.)	March 18 (Saturday, 5:00 p.m.)	March 18 (Saturday, 5:00 p.m.)
Fred Ascher	Fred Ascher Exodus 17:1-7 and Romans 5:1-11	Deborah Kovac	Maria Gustafsson-Grant
Manny Cabacungan			Joshua Nickel
March 26	March 26 Fourth Sunday in Lent	March 26	March 26
Julie Johnson	Charles Peruchini 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and Ephesians 5:8-14	Emily Jackson-Yano	Emily Jackson-Yano
Charlotte Johnson			Ronald Nickel