

# The Master's Notes

May 2012

Lutheran Church of The Master

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
*a Reconciling in Christ congregation*

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## **FROM THE PASTOR**

Why do we worship? Does God really need or want praise for Himself? Why do you worship? Entertainment? Enlightenment? An emotional experience? To love God? To be loved by God? Why worship? One of my friends once told me the answer was because "After a couple thousand years of worship, it is now what we know to do." Do we worship because its what we've always done?

*"The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."*  
Mark 2:27

God doesn't need our worship. We need to worship God. Worship is for us. It gives us a way to go to God regularly and get lavished with His gifts. Sunday morning is for you. The songs, the sermon, the supper are all gifts to you from God through the good people of Lutheran Church of the Master. Therefore, we at Lutheran Church of the Master put forth a great deal of effort into crafting an experience for you. We make worship beautiful partly because it honors God but mostly because it moves you. We are intentional to have times where worship is meditative and contemplative and peaceful as well as time when worship is joyful and inspiring and celebratory. We focus on you and your experience because that is what we believe God is focused on.

With all that being said worship is not a consumeristic product we will market for mass consumption. Our church is starting to develop a 5 year ministry plan. That plan will focus on growth. The easy, non-thought-through answer for church growth is a rock band worship with a coffee house sanctuary. That is not who

we are. (I really don't think God cares all that much either way. Rock music is not disrespectful to God or the church, it is just not who we are.) There will be no easy answers for our growth. We will have to be thoughtful and creative to remain true to our strengths and adaptive enough with our personal opinions to meet new people with God's love.

Those of us planning thank you for your support and prayers and ask for your trust and thoughts to grow with integrity. Feel free to chat with myself, Kevin G., Amanda B., Barbara B., Ken R. or Robin N. about any thoughts or concerns with our 5 year ministry planning.

Ioan Ittu, Pastor

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Highlights from the April council meeting:

We decided May's social event will be 'Jazz Night' at LACMA on Friday May 11th. The Pastor and members of the council are developing a five year plan for the church, this will take several weeks. We are considering Chancel Chairs for this year's Memory Month project.

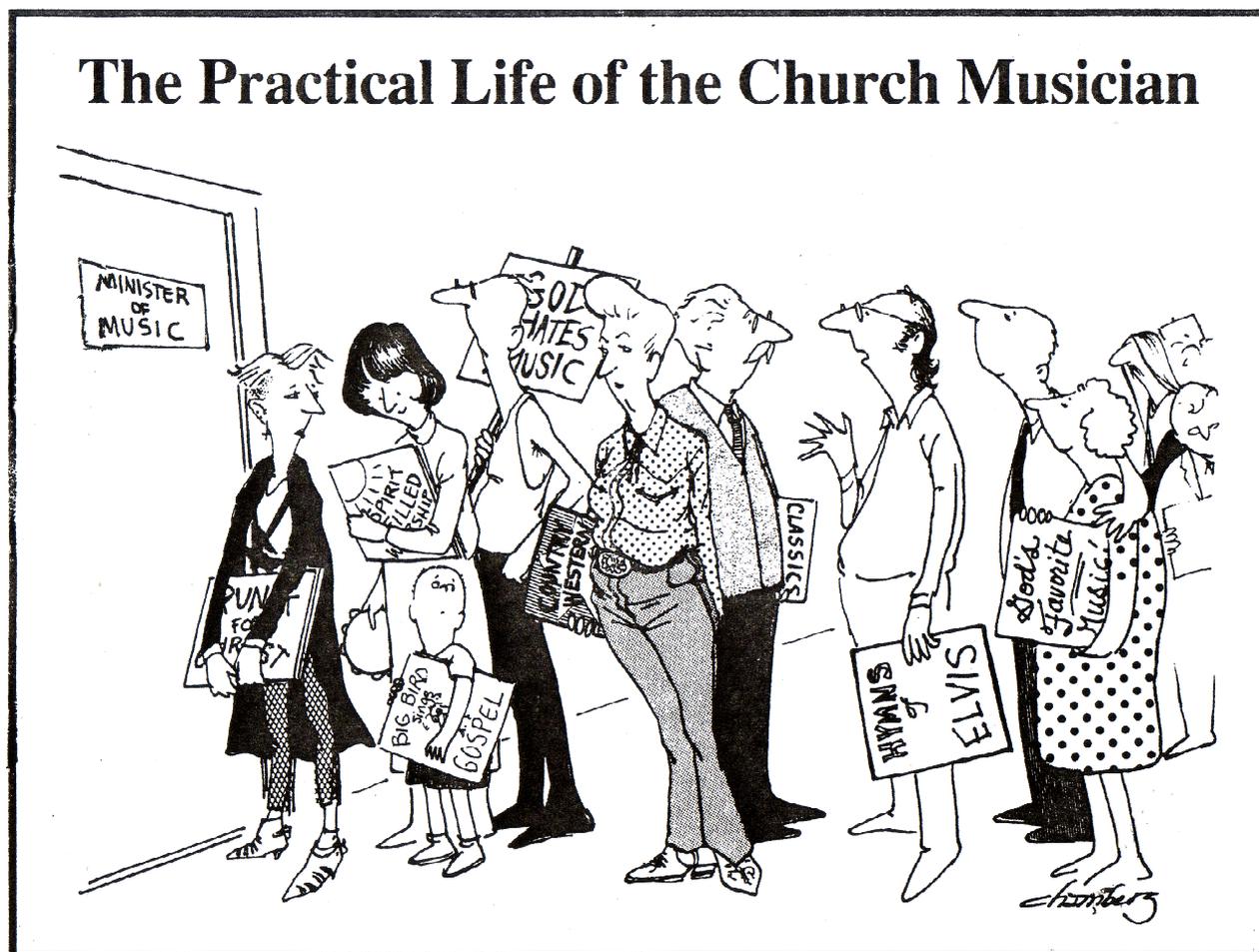
Kevin Grant, President

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

God has truly blessed us financially this Easter season. In April we received \$22,907.68 in offerings – our Easter donations alone were \$5,046.68! Our year-to-date donations through April 30 are \$60,974.16 or 37.72% of our new budgeted goal of \$161,665 for 2012. Thank you all for your generous support.

Emily Jackson-Yano, Financial Secretary

FROM THE  
MINISTER OF MUSIC



For many years I had this cartoon on my office wall, taken from an article in *The Christian Century* magazine by Lutheran theologian Paul Westermeyer. In “The Practical Life of the Church Musician” Westermeyer speaks of the work of the church musician with these words: “It can be difficult to try to meet what are [the] often competing demands [of a congregation]; some people want gospel hymns, some want rock, some want Lutheran chorales, still others don’t want to sing at all and expect the choir to do it. The musician is supposed to meet all of these requests.”

In planning worship it can be a challenge to meet the musical needs of a diverse congregation. I’ve found it helpful to remember that our musical offerings are a gift to God—not reflections of what we like or prefer or what makes us feel good. While there are certainly subjective elements to music selection, it’s important to strive to choose music in a variety of styles to tell God’s story as revealed in our lectionary readings.

Westermeyer writes that primary to a successful music program is the church musicians’ relationship with parishioners and with God. “Operating within a community of grace should allow the musician to take risks, to fail and succeed and to faithfully sing the song with the people. It means knowing the big story, knowing the people’s stories and their capacities, and then serving them with care.”

The practical life of the church musician is “the outcome of a vocation—a calling—that serves God and the people of God with God’s unique gift of music.”

David York, Minister of Music

## COUNCIL AND FINANCE MEETING INFORMATION

All Council and Budget and Finance 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 Congregation 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.

## MEMORY MONTH 2012

Memory Month begins on Mothers' Day, May 13th and ends on Fathers' Day June 17th. Memory Month provides us with a time to honor and remember those we love. The money given is put toward a special project selected by the Church Council from recommendations given by the congregation. This year the donations will fund the purchase of 4 appropriate chairs for the chancel area. As you may or may not have noticed, we are using an array of chairs for Pastor Ittu, Jeremy, our acolyte, the assistants and readers. Purchasing like chairs, appropriate for the chancel, would add uniformity and beauty to the chancel. This year would have been our founding Pastor Candow's 100th Birthday, so the Council would like to honor the Candow family this year and these chairs would be dedicated to them. Your gifts toward Memory Month would be very much appreciated to make this project a reality. Thank you for your generosity.



*(Example of an inappropriate chair)*

## MAY SOCIAL EVENT



Please join LCM for May's social event which will be a trip to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) on Friday, May 11 for the museum's Friday Night Jazz series. This event is FREE, and is held at the main entrance of LACMA. Performing on May 11, will be Ruslan Sirota, who is a Grammy Award-winning pianist and composer. The event starts at 6pm – please join us and bring a friend! LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, 90036.

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY



You can study the Bible every Sunday morning. We meet at 9:45 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!

## 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.

## FLOWER CHART



May 6	Open
May 13	Amanda Bialek, in honor of her third wedding anniversary.
May 20	Open
May 27	Kristen and Michael Rubi, in honor of Emma Maryn Rubi's baptism.

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 \$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.**

**DO YOU LIKE TO KNIT?**  
**... WANT TO LEARN?**



We will be meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> to knit or learn to knit together. Please come to knit together in 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.

**SIMPLY GIVING**

You may wish to consider making your 2012 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:

<http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org>  
click on the CONTRIBUTE 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 [Simply Giving - Give Now](#) to communicate directly and securely with Vanco Services. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the church office (310) 473-1055.

**NEW CITY PARISH**



New City Parish of Los Angeles needs your help! If you have volunteered before at other places, you know what the feeling is like to know that you are making a difference in people's life and in your community. New City Parish of Los Angeles invites volunteers to serve at their food-distribution sites; as tutors for after-school, as nurses for parish nursing and health fair, or as contributing writers for their newsletter and e-news. To find out more about their needs, please visit their Website at: [www.newcityparish.org](http://www.newcityparish.org) Click on the Donation and Volunteers link and fill out the form to let them know about your gifts and talents and how you would like to help them out.

**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**  
**Dolores Brown** (friend of Peggy Anderson)  
**Julie and Patrick Brown** (friends of Peggy Anderson)  
**Becky and Koa Bruinakool**  
(family of Barbara Browning)  
**Emma Lou Candow**  
**Martic Colman** (nephew of Mary and John Savage)  
**Donna Crean**  
**Diane Eunice** (niece of Peggy Anderson)  
**Marvin Frank** (grandfather of Griffith Frank)  
**Virginia Frank** (mother of Griffith Frank)  
**Tom Fuentes and family** (friends of Pastor Richards)  
**Lois Jackson** (mother of Emily Jackson-Yano)  
**LCpl. Adam Johnson, USMC**  
(brother of Julie Johnson)  
**Jason Johnson, US Army** (cousin of Julie Johnson)  
**Rosana Johnson** (grandmother of Julie Johnson)  
**Pastor Ray Kibler**  
**Jonathan Kovac** (brother of Deborah Warren)  
**Cecille Lanthier** (mother of Ray Lanthier)  
**Gisela Marx**  
**Mike Metzger** (son of Peggy Anderson)  
**Janice Newberry** (family of Steve Newberry)  
**Erma Nickel**  
**Robin Nickel**  
**Pastor Carlos Paiva**  
**Frances Willms**  
**Hideto Yano** (father-in-law of Emily Jackson-Yano)  
**The plight of the Syrian Peoples**  
**Members of the AA Groups**  
**Our sister congregations in the**  
**LA Metro Conference,**  
**especially our neighbors at St. Andrew's Lutheran,**  
**as they call a new pastor.**

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER

<b>EVERY SUNDAY</b>  Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Choir Warm-up 10:28 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.	<h2 style="text-align: center;">MAY 2012 CALENDAR</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Please refer to CALENDAR at <a href="http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org">http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org</a> for updates.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b></p>					
		<b>1</b> <b>Budget and Finance Meeting</b> 7:30 p.m.  AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>2</b>  AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>3</b>  <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:45 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Church Council Meeting</b> 7:00 p.m.  AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>9</b>  AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>10</b>  <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:45 p.m.	<b>11</b> <b>May Social Event:</b> <b>LACMA Jazz Night</b> 6:00 p.m.	<b>12</b> <b>Men's Bible Breakfast</b> at Mt. Olive 8:00 a.m.  Sally Tomatoes 6:00 p.m. Sanctuary
<b>13</b>  <b>Mothers Day</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>16</b>  AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>17</b>  <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:45 p.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Knitting Group</b> 11:00 a.m.  UCLA Senior Recital – Phoebe Dinga 1:00 p.m. Sanctuary
<b>20</b>  UCLA Senior Recital – Phoebe Ping 1:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>21</b>  <b>Masters Notes</b> <b>articles</b> <b>due in office.</b>	<b>22</b>  AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>23</b>  AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>24</b>  <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:45 p.m.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Zotti Chorale Rehearsal 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>  <b>The office will</b> <b>be closed</b>	<b>29</b>  AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>30</b>  AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	<b>31</b>  <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:45 p.m.	<u>May Birthdays</u>  <b>Tom Jacobson May 1<sup>st</sup></b> <b>Barbara Browning May 31<sup>st</sup></b>	

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER

## MAY 2012 SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

<b>USHERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	<b>READERS</b>	<b>ASSISTANT</b>	<b>COUNTERS</b>
<b>May 6</b>	<b>May 6</b>	<b>May 6</b>	<b>May 6</b>	<b>May 6</b>
Maria Gustafsson Grant	Jeremy Nickel	Deborah Warren Acts 8:26-40 and 1 John 4:7-21	Emily Jackson-Yano	Barbara Browning
Julie Johnson				Ronald Nickel
<b>May 13</b>	<b>May 13</b>	<b>May 13</b>	<b>May 13</b>	<b>May 13</b>
Maria Gustafsson Grant	Jeremy Nickel	Tom Jacobson Acts 10:44-48 and 1 John 5:1-6	Deborah Warren	Maria Gustafsson Grant
Julie Johnson				Robin Nickel
<b>May 20</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>May 20</b>
Steve Newberry	Jeremy Nickel	Maria Gustafsson Grant Acts 1:15-17,21-26 and 1 John 5:9-13	Tom Jacobson	Sara McGah
Eric Ormsby				Joshua Nickel
<b>May 27</b>	<b>May 27</b>	<b>May 27</b>	<b>May 27</b>	<b>May 27</b>
Steve Newberry	Jeremy Nickel	Steve Newberry Acts 2:1-21 and Romans 8:22-27	Tom Jacobson	Emily Jackson-Yano
Eric Ormsby				Tom Jacobson