

The Master's Notes

November 2014

Lutheran Church of The Master

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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Craig Shepherd 2000

TIME CHANGE: **SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK**



Reminder: Set your clocks one hour back, Saturday, November 1st, before you go to bed. Worship will begin at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Standard Time, on Sunday, November 2nd!!

FROM THE PASTOR

On November 8th your Council will meet to vision together some long-term possibilities for what our ministry could look like? Our current Strategic Plan aims at growing us to 100 people in worship. The reality is that the way we move around the building, have fellowship, comfortably worship together can't handle 100 people. Perhaps we need 2 worship services? Perhaps we need an outside patio fellowship space? Perhaps there are other possibilities.

Your Council has many administrative responsibilities like making sure money is spent wisely and accordantly accounted for, taking up inglorious but necessary projects like seeing our plumbing overhauled. But Council also has the important job of discerning where God is leading us. How and where does God want us to serve? How does God want us to use our time, talents and money? Here are some examples of discern decisions: "Pastor, we want ministry to our Persian community to be your third most important priority after your regular weekly duties." "Ensuring the safety of Robin during the week and preventing further property damage and public insult of your welcoming identity is more important than updating our aging electrical system. So instead of directing \$1,500 to ongoing electrical projects, we want to raise \$3000 (turned out to be \$5000 because of your generosity, thank you) for security cameras."

The Council is always attending to the goal of growing Lutheran Church of The Master and will vision toward that end on November 8th. Why do you want the church to grow? Share with your Council, talk to Kevin, some energizing reasons why you want LCM in the lives of more people? Share with you Council, write to Maria, some of your ideas for growth. What is something that has happened in the last 5 years that has made you really proud of LCM or that you think has brought about good progress in the church? Share it with your Council. Chat with Ken, Bryan, Sara, Josh or Richard.

Every year at about this time we begin the search for Council members to allow faithful leaders a rest and to bring in fresh perspectives and renewed energy to our discerning of ministry. Consider whether serving in this important way, as a Council member, may be a way God could use you to further God's work in our church.

Ioan Ittu, Pastor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Someone once asked, "What's Pastor Ittu's "day-time" job.

This and other questions, made me realize not all of us understand the level of effort, time and money it takes to run a church.

First the money; while we enjoy tax free status for the property, we still have to pay city fees for services. There is no discount for water or electricity. There is a payroll that must be met for the pastor, the administrative assistant, our minister of music, singers, instrumentalists and the custodian. Money doesn't

(Continued on back)

come from the Synod; generally we contribute money to help them. While the church has some investments, we depend on contributions from our members. (Just like Public Radio and TV.)

There are a lot of meetings; the council meets once a month for about three hours. In the last few weeks, there has been a pair of budgeting meetings on Saturday mornings that have run about four hours. In November, there will be a special Saturday meeting to address issues related to the growth of the church and council policies. Council members routinely attend workshops at the Synod, the Synod Assembly, meetings at other churches, meetings at New City Parish, and meetings with city inspectors and vendors. (These meetings are open to all our members, if you're interested.)

There is also homework and volunteerism. In addition to her "day-time" job, Emily volunteers as our Financial Secretary tracking income and producing the giving statements for our tax returns. Ken is done with "day-time" jobs, and volunteers as our Treasurer during the day, tracking money and paying bills. Joshua is in college and yet finds time to volunteer for web site projects and editing this Newsletter. He also co-chairs the Property committee with Sara, who also co-chairs the Worship, Arts, and Music committee with Bryan. Barbara continues to coordinate our Six Year Plan and its committees, and is also our ambassador to New City Parish. This is only a partial list of the volunteers and their projects. There are many more.

In addition, about half of the council members are also in the choir.

At the center of this, Pastor Ittu provides input, coordination and guidance for all, in addition to writing sermons and being available for pastoral duties. Being a Pastor is a full time gig, at least at our church.

So please be aware that the high levels of effort by Pastor, council members and our volunteers are what keep this church running. And I as say every Sunday, "Think about how you would like to contribute and participate."

Kevin Grant, President

FINANCIAL UPDATE

In October we received **\$9,447.98** in General Account donations. This brings our YTD giving to **\$118,110.52** which is **81.34%** of our budget goal of **\$145,200**. Lutheran Church of the Master thanks you!

Emily Jackson-Yano, Financial Secretary

FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

This summer the world mourned the death of the brilliant actor-comedian Robin Williams. Episcopalians were remembering him as one of their own. Williams' tongue-in-cheek list of "Top Ten Reasons To Be an Episcopalian" (as enumerated on one of his HBO comedy specials) has long been a favorite among church members:

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs.
8. Male and female God created them; male and female we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is color-coded.
4. Free wine on Sunday.
3. All of the pageantry, none of the guilt.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.
1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.

November Musical Highlights

- 11/2 On All Saints' Sunday the LCM Choir will present Dan Forrest's *Requiem* as well as a sung musical litany remembering all of "our saints".
- 11/9 Musical guest will be percussionist Paul Sternhagen, who will join the choir for the spiritual "Keep You Lamps Trimmed and Burning", in an arrangement by Andre Thomas.
- 11/16 The choir sings the American folk song "On Jordan's Stormy Banks", arr. by Howard Helvey. Linda Muggeridge will offer a piece for oboe by Astor Piazzolla, the Argentinian composer best known for his tangos.
- 11/23 We celebrate Christ the King Sunday with music by Charles Wood, Dolores Hruby and K.Lee Scott.
- 11/30 The new church year begins on this First Sunday of Advent. The choir will sing "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" in a setting by David Ashley White.
- David York, Minister of Music*

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 November 10th starting at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

THANKSGIVING PREP DAY

On Wednesday, November 26th at 5:00 p.m. we will meet to do the prep work for our Thanksgiving meal for the following day. The chores will include setting up the tables and chairs and setting and



putting the table settings together, preparing the turkeys, peeling potatoes, cutting up vegetables, and anything else we might need help with. Please come and help and stay as long as you can.

THANKSGIVING



There will be a Thanksgiving Day service at 11:00 a.m. followed by a traditional Turkey dinner. Turkey, gravy, rolls and potatoes will be provided, and everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite side dish or dessert to share. To minimize the chaos and avoid the embarrassment of bringing the same dish as someone else, please RSVP and coordinate with Robin and Barbara or use the sign up sheet in the Narthex. And if you forget to RSVP, crash the party anyway. (No Choir Rehearsal on Thanksgiving.)

NOVEMBER SERVICE EVENT: FOOD DRIVE

In response to congregation interest in partnering with local groups to address hunger, during the month of November LCM will be hosting a food drive for Westside Food Bank. There will be barrels to put the food in. Please bring non-perishable food items, such as: rice, beans, dry pasta, cereals, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned tuna, canned soup, etc. There is a special need for infant and toddler care items, such as: diapers(4-5), infant formula, infant and children cereals, juices, fruit snacks, etc. Glass jarred items (except baby food) are not recommend as breakage does happen.

COME TO OUR CRAFT DAY

We will meet on November 15th 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.

FLOWER CHART

November 2	Bryan and Nancy Yamasaki, in memory of Donald R. Schultz.
November 9	Sara McGah, in memory of Tom.
November 16	Open
November 23	Open
November 27	Open
November 30	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.**

HOLIDAY CARDS FOR PRISONERS

We have been asked to participate in a prison ministry by collecting holiday greeting cards for people in prison. Cards are needed especially for Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, New Year and generic holiday cards. They also need blank cards for other events or holidays. The greeting cards will be given to the prisoners for them to use to send to their loved ones. We will be partnering with Christ Lutheran Church in Long Beach. We will collect the cards through Sunday, November 30th and they will deliver the cards to the prisoners. Please bring the greeting cards to church on Sundays and there will be boxes in the narthex and in the Parish House for the cards.

SAVE THE DATE



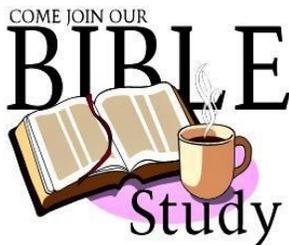
On December 14th immediately following worship, we will be holding our Annual Election and Budget meeting where we will approve the 2015 budget, hold elections, and consider any other pertinent business. So save the date and plan on being at this very important meeting.

TO CONTACT PASTOR ITTU



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.

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!

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS



The October - December edition of the Christ In Our Home devotional booklet is available in the pew racks and in the narthex. The Large print edition is also available in the narthex. Be sure to take your copy!

INKJET PRINTER CARTRIDGE AND CELL PHONE RECYCLING PROGRAM

We have a recycling program here at the church to recycle your used inkjet cartridges and old cell phones. If you would like to participate in this program, please give your items to Robin. They will be sent to a company that will pay us for each one we send in. The money will then be put in the General fund. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact the church office.

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.

COMMUNITY LAW CLINIC

We are pleased to introduce the Khosravi-Malakouti Community Law Clinic on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every Month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish House

Attorneys John Khosravi and Parviz Malakouti will be 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. John Khosravi is a California licensed attorney and a graduate of UCLA and Loyola Law School.

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; Fariba; Jane Fan and Alex Lin and family; Scott Ferguson; Karen Friedman; Lois Jackson; Ted and Lynne Jackson; LCpl. Adam Johnson; Betty Johnson; Irwin Keyes; Deborah Kovac; Elizabeth Kovac; Jonathan Kovac; Charlene MacKenzie; Amy Manning; Gisela Marx; Mohsen; Steve Newberry; Harley Rockoff; Dr. Alvaro Rojas; John Savage; Kathie Shinholster; Hilary Smith; Helena Stark; Millie Ross-Clunis Stephens; Corinne Weitzman; 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.	<h2 style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER 2014 CALENDAR</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Please refer to CALENDAR at http://lutheran.churchofthemaster.org for updates.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</p>					
November Birthdays Jacob Ahn - November 5 th David York - November 7 th Griffith Frank - November 18 th Mary Savage - November 29 th						1 Choir Rehearsal in Long Beach 1:00 p.m. New City Parish Annual Fall Fundraiser 4:00 p.m.
2 All Saints Sunday Choir Concert in Long Beach 4:00 p.m.	3	4 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	5 Community Law Clinic 6:30 p.m. Parish House AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	6 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	7	8 Council Meeting 9:00 a.m.
9	10 Council/Budget and Finance Meeting 6:00 p.m.	11 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	12 AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	13 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	14	15 Crafts Day 11:00 a.m.
16	17	18 AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	19 Community Law Clinic 6:30 p.m. Parish House AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	20 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	21 Masters Notes articles due in office.	22
23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Prep Time 5:00 p.m.	27 Thanksgiving Worship and Dinner 11:00 a.m.	28	29
30		AA St. John's Alumni 7:30 p.m. Parish House	AA Step Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	No Choir Rehearsal		

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER

NOVEMBER 2014 SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

USHERS	ACOLYTE	READERS	ASSISTANT	COUNTERS
November 2	November 2	November 2 All Saints Sunday	November 2	November 2
Maria Gustafsson Grant	Jeremy Nickel	John Johnson Revelation 7:9-17 and 1 John 3:1-3	Deborah Kovac	Barbara Browning
Julie Johnson				Ronald Nickel
November 9	November 9	November 9 22nd Sunday after Pentecost	November 9	November 9
Kevin Grant	Jeremy Nickel	Fred Ascher Amos 5:18-24 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Tom Jacobson	Sara McGah
Bryan Yamasaki				Joshua Nickel
November 16	November 16	November 16 23rd Sunday after Pentecost	November 16	November 16
Fred Ascher	Jeremy Nickel	Mark Stockfisch Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 and 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Yalda Riahi	Maria Gustafsson Grant
Manny Cabacungan				Millie Rojas
November 23	November 23	November 23 Christ The King	November 23	November 23
Julie Johnson	Jeremy Nickel	Deborah Kovac Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Ephesians 1:15-23	Emily Jackson-Yano	Barbara Browning
Robin Nickel				Ronald Nickel
November 30	November 30	November 30 1st Sunday in Advent	November 30	November 30
Kevin Grant	Jeremy Nickel	Maria Gustafsson Grant Isaiah 64:1-9 and 1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Yalda Riahi	Emily Jackson-Yano
Bryan Yamasaki				Tom Jacobson