



HLC Spotlight: news and views for members and friends

October 2015

costs for this program have been waived by the Seminary.

Because we did not know about this invitation when the 2015 congregational budget was approved, there is no line item to draw upon for the travel reimbursement. If you would like to support this effort, your special gifts can be put in the offering on Sunday or mailed to the church office. Please add "Vicar Auto" to the memo line on your check. Your extra assistance is deeply appreciated!

Vicar Mandy will preach her first sermon at HLC on Sunday, September 27. She will be installed as part of our worship that day. Please join us and welcome Vicar Mandy to our staff at HLC. And, rejoice with us that we have been invited to partner with her, the Seminary, and the ELCA in this remarkable opportunity.

See you in worship!

Pastor Jim

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Greetings in the name of Jesus, our savior, brother, and friend!



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear members and friends of Hollywood Lutheran,

Our congregation welcomed Vicar Mandy Achterberg to our staff in September. It was a moment guided by the Holy Spirit and I'm pleased we were able to respond positively. Here's how this process unfolded in less than two weeks!

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, one of our eight ELCA seminaries, was seeking a congregation within commuting distance to Santa Monica to serve as an Internship site for one of their students. Mandy and Chelsea were married last summer and Chelsea was assigned as Vicar at St. Paul's, Santa Monica. To enable Mandy to complete her Internship at the same time, the Seminary was seeking a congregation that could provide parish experience with an approved supervisor for the period of one year. Would HLC consider this invitation? Fast-tracking this option with our Executive Committee and Church Council, a unanimous decision was made. Yes, HLC would enthusiastically accept this invitation!

Agreeing to serve as an Internship site involves several commitments on our part. First of all, as Mandy's supervisor, I meet with her each week in a supervisory session to reflect upon, plan for, review and support her work in our midst. Secondly, we will provide opportunity for her to participate fully in pastoral ministry this year. Thirdly, we will provide a Vicar's committee, comprised of HLC members, to meet with her monthly and offer feedback on preaching, partnership in mission, and pastoral formation as well as provide personal support. We will also reimburse her travel expenses. All other

It has been a pleasure to enter into such a welcoming and lively community as the one that gathers as Hollywood Lutheran Church. Thank you for your willingness to welcome me as your vicar, as well as your willingness to enter into a partnership that will play a crucial role in my formation for ministry.



As my wife and I drove down the coast from Seattle we joked about a sign that said “Beware of sneaker waves!” As we have begun to settle into our new home and enjoyed a few days at the beach, I have learned firsthand that sneaker waves do just that, they sneak up and hit you when you least expect it. The development of my position as vicar at Hollywood Lutheran has a bit like experiencing a sneaker wave. While

the seminary was looking for a congregation that would be suitable, I was not expecting a congregation to be found so soon. Nor was I expecting a welcome that had me in the thick of community life from the very beginning. These first few weeks have been a joy as I have navigated LA traffic and joined in the life and work of this spirited community.

A little about myself -- I come to you most recently from Seattle, Washington where I was working with an urban redevelopment congregation in the heart of downtown Seattle. And while living in Seattle was delightful I will always consider Colorado my home. I grew up in Littleton, Colorado a suburb of Denver nestled at the base of the Rocky Mountains. I completed a Bachelor’s Degree of Science in Health and Exercise with concentrations in Sports Medicine and Nutrition at Colorado State University. After a few years of working in the medical field, I discerned a call to ordained ministry. Conversations with former pastors and spiritual mentors led me to choose to attend Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. It was at LTSS that I met my wife, Chelsea, who is currently serving as vicar at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran in Santa Monica.

My studies at LTSS, or Southern as we often refer to it, have been quite gratifying, but not as much as my work with several congregations in

the Columbia area. It has been a joy to preach, teach, and lead worship and I look forward to doing that with this community as well. I also found great energy in exploring the many ways we as the body of Christ are challenged to listen for God's call and pay attention to that which God is doing in our midst. You might frequently hear me ask the question, "What is God up to in this place, time, or community?" Followed by, "What might God be calling us to do or be?" These questions, although they may be challenging, provide a nice place to begin the work of proclaiming Christ in word and action to our neighbors. I look forward to exploring these questions and doing the exciting work of listening and attending to God's work in our lives, homes, community, and world.

Let me say this again, thank you. It is no small undertaking to help nurture and raise up leaders in the church. So I thank you for your willingness and openness to the quick way that the Spirit works, and for welcoming me into this community.

In Christ's Peace,
Vicar Mandy

[Vicar's Book Study](#)

Each month, Vicar Mandy will be reading a book on theology, spirituality, or the Christian life. Join her on the 4th Wednesday of the month to discuss. Mandy will begin hosting her book study this month on **Wednesday, October 28th at 7PM**. Stay tuned for book title.



THANKS, ABILIO!

Have you seen the new ramp in Durkee Hall? Our Sexton, Abilio Salguero, has done it again. The ramp replaces one that was non-compliant and difficult to us. This new ramp makes accessibility to Durkee Hall available to all and was built to current guidelines. Abilio rebuilt the ramp, added sturdy handrails on each side, and replaced the carpet and tile trim. Oak trim, stained to match other pieces in Durkee Hall, was used in the project. Beautiful job, Abilio!

Also, the damaged choir pew that was placed under the windows on the south wall in the Chancel has been repaired and moved to Durkee Hall. This will provide additional seating, particularly for our larger 12 Step groups that use this space. Thanks again for doing this, Abilio!



An Article from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

What is 'Lutheran'?

We have a particular way of understanding the Jesus story

For the past two years, I've organized my work around these four emphases: we are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together and we are church for the sake of the world.

I want to spend a little time thinking with you about what it means to be Lutheran in the 21st century. What do we mean when we say we are Lutheran? The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is fast upon us, and this month, as in every October, we will observe Reformation Sunday.

Maybe a good place to start is to ask why it's important and helpful to have a Lutheran identity. Some would say that denominations and denominational loyalty are things of the past. There is some truth to this, especially if our denomination is defined by ethnicity and culture and our loyalty is primarily to the denomination and not to our Lord.



There was a campaign during the 1980's church growth movement to get rid of any denominational markers whatsoever. The stolid St. Paul Lutheran Church on the corner was supposed to be renamed something like "The Church at Pheasant Run." How evocative! How cool! How vaguely woodsy! A simple name change would accomplish two things at once: stop scaring the denominationally averse away and attract tons of people. It didn't.

In an attempt to become more attractive we became generic. Having a clear sense of who

we are and what we believe isn't a detriment but an asset. If we are well-defined and well-differentiated, we are more able to engage in ecumenical and interreligious dialogue and can be a clear voice in the public square.

But what is "Lutheran"? We chuckle at author Garrison Keillor's loving caricature of Lutherans. He does describe many of us, but not all of us. I would never disavow the western and northern European heritage of thousands of our people. It's part of our story. But we also have thousands of sisters and brothers of African, Asian, Latino/Latina, Native American, and Arab and Middle Eastern descent, some of whom have been Lutheran for generations.

And the Lutheran church is experiencing its greatest growth in the "global south" (Africa, Central and Latin America, and most of Asia). There are more Lutherans in Indonesia than in the [ELCA](#). There are more Lutherans in Ethiopia and Tanzania than in the U.S. There are Lutherans in El Salvador and Japan and India and Mexico and Palestine and Jordan and China and Ireland. The newest Lutheran church is being formed in the world's newest country. We are working with Sudanese Lutheran pastors to establish a Lutheran church in South Sudan. Jell-O doesn't routinely show up at the potlucks of these Lutherans. Being Lutheran is not fundamentally about ethnicity.

If culture and cuisine don't define us, our theology must. Lutherans have a very particular way of understanding the Jesus story. It's not a movement from unbridled freedom to submission. Rather, it's the story of God redeeming us from sin, death and the devil, setting us free from our bondage to sin so that, liberated and alive, we may serve God by serving the neighbor. And it's not about our effort or goodness or hard work. It's about God's gracious will to be merciful.

Try this at home: ask family or friends what they must do to be in a right relationship with God. After picking their jaws up off the floor that they were asked such a question, my guess is that people will talk about keeping the

commandments, being a better person, reading the Bible more. No. The love of God at work in the crucified Christ creates this right relationship. Our part is to receive this gift in faith.

This is a shattering reversal of the way things have always worked. We don't have a transactional relationship with God — if I do this then God will do that. It is a transformational relationship. We who were dead in sin have now been made alive. We are free to respond to that deep abiding love. What we eat, what hymns we sing, what jokes we tell, what counties we hail from, what color we are, what we wear — none of this binds us together or makes us Lutheran. It is God's grace. And that is good news in any language.



In December 2013, Louis C.K.'s production company, Pig Newton, signed a deal with FX for him to create new shows for their various networks. On January 14, 2014, FX ordered a pilot episode for *Baskets* with C.K. & Zach Galifianakis to co-write, and Galifianakis to star. On August 27, 2014, FX picked up the show for a 10-episode first season with production to commence in 2015. On Monday, September 21st, *Baskets* filmed an episode here at HLC. Louie Anderson, comedian, was part of the episode. Our very own Timothy León will be starring in this episode, as well as his talents playing the organ. It was a huge success and when we are notified of an air date I will pass it along.

Church Bulletins

They're back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference, includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get. Irving Benson and Janet Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

And this one just about sums them all up...
The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday:
'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours!'

Celebrating in October and November are:

10/7 Barbara Oehlert
10/13 Ted Goulet
10/16 Edward Tursa
10/17 Andrew Johnston
10/17 Kat Nelson
10/26 Joey Hahle

11/8 Phyllis Lundine
11/19 Joan Riedell
11/20 Mary Hohmann
11/22 David Conrad

October Assistant Ministers

6th Mike Mohr and Andrew Johnston
13th Ted Goulet and Karla Richards
20th Andrew Johnston and David Conrad
27th Ted Goulet and Kat Nelson

October Lectors

4th Andrew Johnston
11th David Conrad
18th Mike Mohr
25th Tomi Thompson

Dating the Reformation

Historians usually date the start of the Protestant Reformation to the 1517 publication of Martin Luther's "95 Theses." Its ending can be placed anywhere from the 1555 Peace of Augsburg, which allowed for the coexistence of Catholicism and Lutheranism in Germany, to the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia, which ended the Thirty Years' War. The key ideas of the Reformation—a call to purify the church and a belief that the Bible, not tradition, should be the sole source of spiritual authority—were not themselves novel. However, Luther and the other reformers became the first to skillfully use the power of the printing press to give their ideas a wide audience.

Did you know?

No reformer was more adept than Martin Luther at using the power of the press to spread his ideas. Between 1518 and 1525, Luther published more works than the next 17 most prolific reformers combined.



October

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4 19 th Sunday of Pentecost 10AM worship 11AM Fellowship in Durkee Hall	5	6	7 11:00 AM Food Pantry	8 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 20 th Sunday of Pentecost 10AM worship 11AM Fellowship in Hoick Hall	12	13 2:30PM Worship/Music 7:00PM Church Council Meetings	14 11:00 AM Food Pantry	15 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	16	17
18 21 st Sunday of Pentecost 10AM worship 11AM Fellowship in Hoick Hall	19	20	21 11:00 AM Food Pantry	22 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday 10AM worship 11AM Fellowship in Hoick Hall	26	27	28 11:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Vicar's Bible Study	29 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	30	31 All Hallows Eve
1 All Saints Day	2 All Souls Day	3	4	5	6	7

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