



HLC Spotlight: news and views for members and friends

December 2015

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear members and friends,

Daylight hours are less this time of year. With more hours of darkness and cooler temperatures, even in Southern California, we long for the light. In this season of Advent, the four Sundays prior to Christmas, we light candles to mark the coming of the Christ Child and to increase the light.

In our Advent worship at Hollywood Lutheran Church the Advent wreath with its four candles is clearly visible. Each week we light one more candle and the light increases until we light the Christ candle on Christmas Eve celebrating the birth of our Saviour.

Christians welcome the light of Christ at Christmas, but we also celebrate the presence of that light during the Twelve Days, from Christmas until the Epiphany, January 6. We welcome the light of Christ that is already with us through faith. In word and gesture, prayer and song, in the many customs of a variety of cultures, we welcome the Light. We do that because we believe this life-giving Light can shine brightly in our lives and in the rhythm of daily life.

Whether we acknowledge it or not, we need the Light! There is plenty of darkness that surrounds us. Personal loss and disappointment can bring us to dark moments. When things do not go as we want or had expected, darkness seems to increase. The continuing tragedies of gun violence and the senseless loss of innocent lives has plunged our society into deeper darkness. As this darkness envelops us we wonder where is the Light?

The good news for us is that God has brought Light into our lives! In the midst of our darkness, to release us from the shadows, to answer our cries, to illumine the darkest corners of our lives, God has acted. In the birth of the Christ Child the Light of the World has been given. No longer does the darkness control us. The Light is here!

In this season of Advent preparation, my hope for you is that you will walk in this Light. Rejoice that the power of darkness has ended. Let this Light flood into your lives and change you. See the good that surrounds you. Speak more gently. Act with integrity. Let the Light shine brightly in all that you do and say!

May the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, bless your Advent, Christmas and Epiphany celebrations with increasing brightness and deep joy. Rejoice, for the Lord has come!

See you in worship!

Pastor Jim

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Why Advent?

In a culture where the green and red, silver and gold decorations make their way onto the scene as early as October, it might seem odd that even after all the turkey and stuffing has been consumed, we find ourselves in sanctuary full of blue. Shouldn't we be decking our halls for the Christmas season? Haven't we waited the appropriate amount of time?

We wait just a bit more. We wait with hope. We wait with trust that God will fulfill the promises of old. We wait for the peace of God's reign in our lives and in our world.

It is interesting that this is how we begin our liturgical year. We begin telling the story of our faith by naming that we are waiting. Not only do we wait for December 25th when we commemorate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth,

celebrating the incarnation, but we wait also for Christ's coming again. Our prayers and our pleas to God name that we are still waiting, that we invite Christ to come again, and that we long to see the day when God's reign is known fully.

As I write this, news has emerged of another mass shooting. This time it has taken place in our own part of the country. There are still too many questions, and too few answers. And the reality is that we may never know what caused this violent and senseless act to take place.

Violence of any kind is an extreme. It sets us on edge, makes us fear others who look like the perpetrator of such violence. This kind of extreme has the power to isolate and create barriers and walls. It effectively causes individuals and groups to respond in the exact opposite of the way that Jesus taught.

Advent is perhaps seen as an extreme. Particularly in its rejection of culture's attempt to push us into the Christmas season. But it is a season of extreme hope, of extreme trust in God, and extreme peace that we find in Christ Jesus.

In the next few weeks, rest not in the extremes of our culture today, but rest in the extreme love that we find in God. Allow this season of longing and waiting to be a time when we actively seek out the places in this world where God's presence is tangible. And when we do find those glimpses of God's reign, may we also seek to join in that work with joy.

God is with us in our waiting, our longing, and our work of bringing the light of Christ to others this season.

In Christ's Peace,

Vicar Mandy

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war.
Stopping at each shop, to buy a little more.
Christ, the Royal Master, leads against the foe.

But with so much baggage, we're moving kind of slow.

The season is upon us of more than shopping. It is time for prayer, reflection and taking action to change and improve our personal and church lives. Advent is a time of anticipation and hope, based on our reflection and faith. Hollywood Lutheran is moving slowly to find a new Pastor, clean up the facilities, and increase the number of attendants. We are looking forward to our Congregational meeting on December 13th. This is the first of 2 meetings that will help decide the future of the church.

We will be looking for nominations for the Church Council, our current finances and the condition of the buildings.

The MET Committee has had some meeting cancellations so things again thing have been delayed with our search for a Pastor.

We do have to face the facts that our attendance numbers have dwindled. And yet much work has to be done. We have many packages to carry, packages of love and hope. Projects still need to be done including decorating the Sanctuary on December 12th beginning at 10:00AM. Can you join us to put up our Tree and wreaths, help with dusting and preparing the church for the Christmas Eve. Please help if you can.

I pray that each of you will have a Blessed & Joys Christmas. A warm and peaceful New Year.

Ted Goulet



FX 'Baskets' Update

I have seen advertisements for the new series 'Baskets' being played on FX. The series will be starting sometime in January. When the episode airs that was filmed at HLC, I will inform every one of date and time.



There will be an Oasis Concert held on Tuesday, December 22 at 7:00PM. Hope you can attend.

Celebrating in December and January are:

12/1 Evan Richards
12/3 Karla Richards
12/7 Bill Richards
12/16 Charles Brockaway

1/1 Bob Halverson
1/13 Raoul Tapia
1/13 Mike Mohr

December Assistant Ministers and Lectors

Assistant Ministers

12/6 Mike Mohr & Kat Nelson
12/13 Ted Goulet & David Conrad
12/20 Ted Goulet & Kat Nelson
12/24 Mike Mohr & Ted Goulet
12/27 Andrew Johnston & Mike Mohr

Lectors

12/6 Dicksie Thompson
12/13 Karla Richards
12/20 David Conrad
12/24 Mike Mohr or Vicar Mandy Achterberg
12/27 Kevin Elam

Worship

A foundation of faith for everything we do

For Lutherans, worship stands at the center of our life of faith. Through God's word, water, bread and prayer we are nurtured in faith and sent out into the world.

Connected with and central to everything we do, worship unites us in celebration, engages us in thoughtful dialogue and helps us grow in faith. It grounds us in our Christian and Lutheran roots, while demonstrating practical relevance for today's world.

While some of the approaches to worship may differ from one ELCA congregation to another, we hold certain things in common. Central to our worship life is the presence of God through word and sacrament. The **word** proclaimed and the **sacraments** —both Holy Baptism and Holy Communion — are called **the means of grace**. We believe that Jesus Christ is present in these means through the power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we describe worship as a "gathering around the means of grace."

There is also a basic pattern for worship among Lutherans. We *gather*. We encounter God's *word*. We share a *meal* at the Lord's table. And we are *sent* into the world. But we do not think about worship so much in terms of what we do. Worship is fundamentally about what God is doing and our response to God's action. Worship is an encounter with God, who saves us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

December

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2 11:00 AM Food Pantry	3 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 Second Sunday of Advent 10am Worship 11am Fellowship in Durkee A.M. M. Mohr, K. Nelson Lector: D. Thompson Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-14	7	8 2:30PM Worship/Music Meeting 7:00PM Church Council Meeting	9 11:00 AM Food Pantry	10 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	11	12 Decorating Sanctuary
13 Third Sunday of Advent 10am Worship 11am Fellowship in Durkee Congregational Meeting Pt. 1 A.M. T. Goulet, D. Conrad Lector: K. Richards Zephaniah 3:14-20 Philippians 4:4-7	14	15	16 11:00 AM Food Pantry	17 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10am Worship 11am Fellowship in Durkee A.M. T. Goulet, K. Nelson Lector: D. Conrad Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10	21	22 Oasis Concert 7pm Sanctuary	23 11:00 AM Food Pantry	24 Christmas Eve Worship 7pm Worship A.M. M. Mohr, T. Goulet Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14	25 Merry Christmas	26
27 First Sunday of Christmas 10 am Worship 11am Fellowship in Durkee A.M. A. Johnston, M. Mohr Lector: K. Elam 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Colossians 3:12-17	28	29	30 11:00 AM Food Pantry	31	1 Happy New Year	2



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Hollywood Lutheran Church
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November 30, 2015

Dear Hollywood Lutheran Church Members:

It is time once again for part one of our annual Congregational meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to approve a proposal from Dewey Pest Control and to consider council nominees.

The nominees for council are:

Mike Mohr

David Conrad

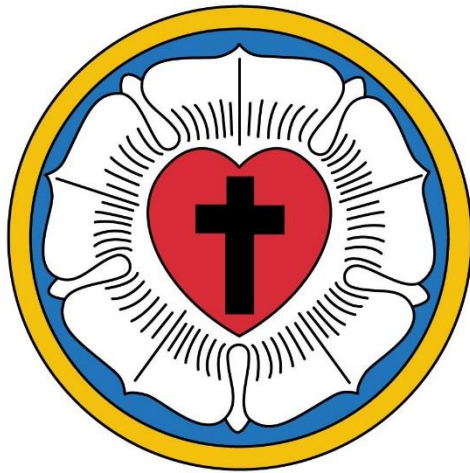
Raoul Tapia

The meeting will take place in Durkee Hall following service on December 13, 2015.

Hope you can attend.

Tom Scott

Church Council Secretary



Hollywood Lutheran Church
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