

July 2016

**Spotlight: News for members and friends
Hollywood Lutheran Church**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
A Reconciling in Christ congregation

1733 N. New Hampshire Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90027
www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net
hollyluth@sbcglobal.net
(323) 667-1212



Dear members and friends of Hollywood Lutheran Church,

In a recent ~~waterchange~~, the leadership news from Women of the ELCA, I came across an article by Elizabeth McBride, director for intergenerational programs. She writes about building the church . one authentic relationship at a time. Much of her thought applies to us as a congregation. My edits of her comments are in *italics*.

~~Last~~ year, when I walked into a convention of the Women of the ELCA in the Southwestern Texas Synod, no one asked, ~~Are you new?~~ or did anything that made me feel like an outsider. I simply showed up, and my participation was valued.

Many congregations are inclusive, spanning a few generations. Yet sometimes when I hear people say, ~~We need/want younger people~~ in our church, it seems to come from a place of fear, rather than a place of mutual relationship building. Sometimes there is a belief that individuals born in the ~~70s~~ and ~~80s~~ are going to somehow save the budget, help meet membership goals and ensure that the church is more relevant.

When we focus on how someone looks - young or old . we miss out on building authentic relationships. When we spend too much time trying to ~~invite them~~ into our group, we ~~are~~ already positioned ourselves as the insiders and them as the ~~other~~.

On the other hand, when we focus on meeting *people* of any age where they are . where their unique gifts can be added to the collective . we evolve as a faith community based on mutual belief and respect. All we need to be relevant for younger generations is to be in authentic relationship with each other.

Rather than focusing on filling pews with a particular type of face, let ~~s~~ live out our call by seeking places to put our faith in action. Let ~~s~~ leave our comfort zones . going out to meet others where they are . and together build the church. Let ~~s~~ learn what Jesus ~~q~~ministry taught us: that the church is built on relationships. Jesus is calling us out of our narrow human perceptions and our desire to categorize people as insiders and outsiders. Jesus is challenging us to get the real work done.

For us at HLC it is important to remember that mutual relationship building is key to our community. Reaching out to others, serving others, sharing our faith is vital; but we do this through mutual respect, always striving to build up our relationship through Jesus Christ.

May your summer be a time of refreshment and renewal. See you in worship!

- Pastor Jim

Parting thoughts from our outward-bound Vicar...

Well family, we have reached the last month of my time as your Vicar. It has been an incredible year serving and learning alongside you all. I am grateful for all the ways you have had a hand in forming me for pastoral ministry. It has been a joy to serve and learn as your Vicar. And while it is sad that I must leave you, the Church needs for me to return to the seminary and finish the work that began many years ago -- work that you are now a part of -- so that I can use my gifts to serve the Church as an ordained pastor.

Many of you have asked what is next for me. In August, Chelsea and I will make our way back to Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. Here we will complete the requirements for our degrees and continue to discern where God is directing our lives. In this year I will continue to process all of the hands-on learning from this year, and integrate it with my academic work. In October I will go before a panel of the faculty for a recommendation for Approval which will happen in December. Once approval is completed I will be eligible for assignment to a synod.

Interestingly, I think that a final year seminarian has some similarities to a congregation in the process of calling a pastor. We will each continue in the process of listening to what God is asking of us. We will continue to explore the gifts God has given to us and how God is inviting us to share those gifts with others. We will each ask questions about what is next for us. There will be times of discernment, times of uncertainty and anxiety, and times of great excitement. These are all parts of the process.

There are many unknowns. What is known, however, is that God is actively at work in this process. The Spirit has stirred a desire in me to be nurtured and formed for ministry work, and in your willingness to participate in my formation. The Spirit is present in our final month of work and learning together. The Spirit is actively orchestrating next things for us.

We are not left without work in this process. While the Spirit is at work forming us for what is next, we are tasked with important questions about ourselves. Just like no two people are exactly alike, no two congregations or pastors are alike. You have been tasked with exploring your neighborhood and finding out who your neighbors are and what they might need from a spiritual community. I will be tasked with looking at my skills and exploring the areas of ministry where I am well formed, gifted, and desire to serve. While we do this work, we might find new urgings of the Spirit, invited to explore new opportunities, and uncover unused gifts. This is why the process exists.

The process seems long, and at times filled with ridiculous amounts paperwork. But God promises to be with us in this wilderness time. God is with us in our joy and in our grief. God is with us as community members leave, and as new community members arrive. God is with us.

As I move toward my final weeks and days, I find myself moving between sadness and excitement; gratitude and nervous anticipation. I find myself pondering, repeating, and praying this quote from Dag Hammarskjöld, *For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes!*

- *Vicar Mandy*



Juan Antonio Rivera, Timothy Leon, Anna Beleya performing at HLC Oasis Concert

Our OASIS concert series continued with a recital on Sunday, June 26. The featured artist was Anna Belaya, soprano, who was assisted by Timothy Leon at the keyboard along with Matteo Bitetti, tenor, and Juan Antonio Rivera, flute. Anna is regularly heard as soprano section leader with our Hollywood Lutheran Choir. Matteo has appeared previously as a soloist and Juan sang with our choir in worship earlier that day. The concert was followed by a gracious reception in Hoick Hall that was coordinated by Charlotte

Several programs have been offered to the communities of Los Feliz, Silverlake and Hollywood through our OASIS series in 2016. The goal of OASIS is to connect to the joy of live music. Professional musicians have performed pro bono and the concert series has been offered free of charge. Performances have been of the highest quality and the audiences have been most appreciative.

As we think about continuing OASIS in a 2016-2017 season, the Worship and Music committee will evaluate our learnings. We want to offer a series that will continue our success, increase our audiences, and bring more people to HLC. Watch for more information on the OASIS concert series and plan to join us for these memorable experiences.

PROPERTY UPDATES

Our long-awaited sound system has been installed! Hollywood Sound was awarded the contract to install this new equipment. The soundboard controls were moved to a location at the rear of the Sanctuary. State of the art Bose speakers were installed in the front on either side of the Chancel arch. An auxiliary speaker for the choir area was also installed to equalize sound in that area. The new speakers are far less conspicuous than the speakers hanging from the ceiling. This old speaker assembly will soon be removed, enhancing the appearance of the entire chancel. Speakers were also installed in the Narthex. This project was made possible through the gift to our congregation from the estate of Ken Noernberg.

An unexpected problem developed downstairs when our water heater failed, flooding a closet, the hallway, and part of one classroom. Thanks to the quick work of our Sexton, Abilio, and several other volunteers, the mess was contained and cleaned up. After evaluating several options the decision was made to replace the water heater. Now our kitchen, restrooms, and Hoick Hall enjoy hot water once more.

A less visible, but wonderful transformation is nearing completion in the Sacristy. Following several roof leaks due to winter rainstorms some major leaks were discovered. The drop ceiling was removed and two walls replastered following the roof repair. A new storage cabinet for vestments and altar paraments is nearing completion and new lighting has been installed. The renewal of this space will soon be done, enhancing proper storage for paraments and preparation for worship.

Celebrating birthdays in July

7/11 Marie Sorensen
7/26 Fr. Hans
7/27 John Tyni

July Assistant Ministers

3rd T Goulet & K Richards
10th A Johnston & K Nelson
17th A Johnston & K Richards
24th M Achterberg & T Goulet
31st M Mohr & K Nelson

July Lectors

3rd Tomi Thompson
10th Mike Mohr
17th Ray Huff
24th Phyllis Lundine
31st Dicksie Thompson

Prayer concerns of the community:

Ursula Rheinfurth, Jennifer Lineberger, Joan Riedell, Charles Campbell, Gail Watson, Billy Arbuckle, and Monica Schober *for healing;*
Father Hans Kroneberg, Stephen Gomez, Edna Fields and Nadene Weber *for trust in your mercy;*
Tanya White, Karin Levitan, Joyce Avirette, Mary Hohmann, Cecelia Ortega, Ernesto Muñoz, Bob Hutnik, Jully Bender and Edward Tursa *for wholeness and wellbeing;*
Raoul Tapia Sr., Mike Glover, Sam Gros, Diane Lamey and Lyndia Lowy *fighting cancers;*
Raynard Lang, Brenda Hutnik, the family of Eric Kivunanka, Priscilla Hardcastle and Mario Melendez *for hopefulness and strength.*

And all military service men and women who are deployed or serving our country.

July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 POTLUCK AM T Goulet K Richards Lect: T Thompson	4 Independence Day	5	6 11AM Food Pantry	7 6-7:30 Vicar Book Study	8	9
10 AM A Johnston K Nelson Lect: M Mohr	11	12 7 pm Church Council	13 11AM Food Pantry	14 11 am MET mtg library 6-7:30 Vicar Book Study	15	16
17 AM A Johnston K Richards Lect: R Huff	18	19	20 11AM Food Pantry	21 6-7:30 Vicar Book Study	22	23
24 Guest Preacher Bishop Erwin AM Vicar T. Goulet Lect: P Lundine	25	26	27 11AM Food Pantry	28	29	30
31 Vicar Mandy's last day AM M Mohr K Nelson Lect: D Thompson	July Birthdays Marie Sorensen John Tyni Father Hans					

Every Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Fellowship



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