



HLC Spotlight: News and views for members and friends January 2016

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear members and friends of Hollywood Lutheran Church,

The celebration of Christmas at HLC this year was festive! I hope you were able to join us for some of the opportunities we offered to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior. There are many “thank you’s” to share.

First of all, to our sacristan Ted Goulet for the decorating of the Sanctuary so our worship space was inviting, festive, and filled with light. His team included Vicar Mandy, Pastor Jim, Bill and Emmett Richards, and Abilio Salguero. We also thank the members who donated poinsettias to provide vibrant color in the chancel. How beautiful everything looked as we gathered for Christmas worship!

Next, we salute our music director, Timothy Leon, members of our choir and the extra musicians who joined us for the “Holiday in Brass” concert as part of our Oasis series. This was an extraordinary presentation, filled with glorious sound by the Modern Brass Ensemble, our HLC choir, and soloists. The reception featured holiday sweets put together by Marie Sorensen. What a perfect entrance to the Christmas season this provided!

Then too, we want to express thanks to all who assisted with preparation and leadership for our Christmas Eve worship as well as Lessons & Carols for Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 27. Our soloists, readers and worshippers joined forces to praise God for the birth of Jesus to continue the celebration.

Now in the season of Epiphany we rejoice that Jesus the Light of the World has come. This season of Light helps us to understand the presence of God in our lives. No longer do we have to stumble around in the darkness, struggling to find our way. The light of Christ shines brightly to guide our steps. The path we follow is clear and leads us to our Lord.

That does not mean our struggles cease and disappointments end. There is plenty in our lives and experiences that can go wrong. The wonderful difference is that God is with us, that the Savior is given to us, that the Light of grace and truth shines brightly to guide our path. That makes a very big difference for us.

Carry this light of Christ in your hearts. Cherish it. Let it guide and direct your words and actions. I look forward to seeing you in worship as we let our light shine!

See you in worship!

- Pastor Jim Bessey

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Happy New Year!

I am always a bit surprised at the energy that follows Christmas. One would expect that with all of the traveling, and gathering that occurs that we would all be out of commission until February! Perhaps that is the amazing thing about turning to a new calendar year. The idea of a fresh start does much to renew our energy levels and mental states. It is in this energy that we find ourselves wanting to set new resolutions or goals for our fresh start of the year.

Growing up my family would begin talking about our New Year's resolutions the day after Christmas day. It is estimated that nearly 60% of adults in the United States set New Year's resolutions. And while this tradition is predominately practiced in the Western Hemisphere, this tradition can be found throughout the world. In fact this year the Pope even made some suggestions.

These are Pope Francis' 10 resolutions for the New Year for the Vatican:

1. **Don't gossip.** *"Be careful how you speak, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity and worldly decadence."*
2. **Don't be overrun with anger.** *"Watch out for anger that can lead to vengeance; for laziness that leads to existential euthanasia; for pointing the finger at others, which leads to pride; and for complaining continually, which leads to desperation."*
3. **Make time for others.** *"Take care of your family life, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all your time, attention and love."*
4. **Choose the "more humble" purchase.** *"Making sure your Christmas is about Jesus and not about shopping."*
5. **Meet the poor "in the flesh."** *"Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers, because we will be judged on this."*
6. **Stop judging others.** *"Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings that devour our interior peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people."*
7. **Befriend those who disagree.** *"Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness, forgiving those who have hurt us and medicating the wounds we have caused others."*
8. **Make commitments, honor your commitments.** *"Take care of your relationships with others, transforming*

your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy."

9. **Make it a habit to "ask the Lord."** *"Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are."*
10. **Find joy every day.** *"Look after your work, doing it with enthusiasm, humility, competence, passion and with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord."*

These "resolutions" were posted to Facebook, and while I cannot verify that Pope Francis has stated his resolutions in this exact form, the quotes following each suggest that they are in line with what the Pope might offer as suggested resolutions for Christians.

Many of these seem logical and like something I am willing to attempt to make more of a regular practice in the coming year. But I think I might have a bit more trouble with #7?

In reality, befriending someone with whom I disagree might be the most Christ like thing I can do this year. Especially in an election year when debates become fiercely divisive and relationships are ruined by mere words. And for our own community, with many big decisions this year, we might find ourselves disagreeing more than we might agree with one another. More than anything we need one another, we were created with the intention that we would live in communion with one another, we need each other to survive. Not only do we need each other to survive, but we need one another to thrive. Be kind to one another this year.

Which resolution peaks your interest? What are you willing to take on this year?

In Christ's Peace,

Vicar Mandy

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for entrusting me with the office of Church Council President. I look forward to working with the entire Church Council and the office staff in the New Year.

2016 brings many challenges to Hollywood Lutheran Church. Some of these challenges include: hiring a new permanent Pastor, fumigating the Church buildings and repairing the walls of the basement to stop water from leaking in and causing further problem.

But the biggest challenge of this year is increasing our membership. Financially we are doing fairly well and with some expected bequeaths coming we will continue to do well. But money alone will not keep the doors open and the essential services and programs going. What we need more than anything is more "butts" in the pews! And we need more volunteers to assist those already working hard on existing projects and programs.

The choice of a new Pastor will help in recruiting people; but as participating members, it is up to us to get people to visit and return and to stay.

A previous President of the Council once said something to the effect of: "I don't want to be the President when it becomes necessary to close the doors" and I also do not want to be that President.

So, everyone, active or inactive, it is time to pull together so our congregation does not end up as so many have in the past. To that end, I challenge everyone to spread the word of how caring, loving and friendly we at Hollywood Lutheran Church are.

Tom Scott

Church Council President

January 31, 2016 - Reconciling in Christ Sunday

It is a huge commitment for a congregation to enter into the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program. It is a commitment that says we are willing to take on the challenge of making God's expansive and inclusive love known in the world. It is a challenge to stand counter to the world to make such a claim. On Sunday, January 31st we will be honoring Hollywood Lutheran's commitment to making this love known and celebrating nearly 17 years as an RIC congregation!

Please join us in celebrating God's expansive and radically inclusive love every Sunday!

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

To each of the Holiday in Brass participants:

On behalf of the Hollywood Food Pantry and the OASIS concert series, please accept my abundant thanks for your participation in the beautiful OASIS benefit concert "Holiday in Brass" performed on December 22nd. Not only am I overwhelmed with my feelings of gratitude for your willingness to help address the problems and battle the food insecurity epidemic, but I am awestruck by the tremendous musical talents displayed that evening. What a treat! In the sharing our musical talents and our precious time, we helped the Hollywood Food Pantry garner donations amounting to over \$550 for that evening, as well as helped keep live music alive in the Hollywood area.

A special thanks to: Vicar Mandy Achterberg and her beautifully eloquent, articulate appeal; Modern Brass and those incredibly virtuosic carol arrangements (and the incredibly virtuosic players to match); the exquisite and accomplished singing of soloists Monica Schober and Matteo Bitetti; and to each of the beautiful, dedicated singers of the Hollywood Remembers Chorale. To them, however, I also owe an apology - the Hollywood

Remembers biography and members list was inadvertently omitted from the program and was an egregious oversight. I am so sorry. I will include it here in an attempt to offer a small consolation for that mistake.

Lastly, should any of you have need to book a concert venue and date, I welcome you to please consider OASIS Concert Series venue at Hollywood Lutheran Church. Please contact me with your ideas and help keep live music alive.

Best regards,

Timothy Leon
OASIS Concerts Series,
Director/Programming

Is there reverence in the sanctuary?

Reverence is "a feeling or attitude of deep respect tinged with awe; veneration".^[1] The word "reverence" in the modern day is often used in relationship with [religion](#). This is because religion often stimulates the emotion through recognition of [God](#), the [supernatural](#), and the [ineffable](#). Reverence involves a humbling of the self in respectful recognition of something perceived to be greater than the self. Thus religion is commonly a place where reverence is felt.

Sanctuary is a word derived from the Latin *sanctuarium*, which is like most words ending in *-arium*, a container for keeping something in—in this case holy things or perhaps holy people, *sancta* or *sancti*. The meaning was extended to places of holiness or safety. A religious sanctuary may be a [sacred place](#) (such as a [church](#), [temple](#), [synagogue](#) or [mosque](#)), or a consecrated area of a church or temple around its tabernacle or [altar](#).

Reverence. Sanctuary. These two words are powerful and mean so much to a person who is preparing themselves for the Word of the Lord.

Do we as a congregation live up to those words? Are we respectful of others who are readying themselves for service? Is there reverence in the sanctuary?

There is a 10-15 minute window when the choir is done rehearsing and they file back into the choir room, that reverence in the sanctuary should be respected. A quiet time in the sanctuary for people to reflect, confess and have their time with God, without hearing other conversations happening in the sanctuary.

There is the Narthex and outside in front of the building for these conversations to take place. Or, wait until after service and have the conversations at fellowship. No conversation should take place as we walk through those white doors. The choir is also guilty of this as well. More conversations are held by the choir, just outside their room in the sanctuary rather than in their choir room.

The lack of reverence in the sanctuary is unacceptable. The sanctuary should be respected and revered. Walking past those big white doors and entering the sanctuary should be a safe place for people to settle down and prepare for service. The Pastor, Vicar and assistant ministers are in the Sacristy, before service, preparing themselves and no one seems to bother them. So shouldn't we show each other the same respect? Shouldn't we show God the same respect?

Let's put reverence back in the sanctuary!!!

Thank you An Anonymous Observer

Celebrating in January and March are:

1/1 Bob Halverson
1/13 Raoul Tapia
1/13 Mike Mohr
1/22 Karin Levitan

3/8 Abilio Salguero
3/9 Lori Rostedt

January Assistant Ministers and Lectors

Assistant Ministers	Lectors
1/3 A. Johnston & K. Richards	R. Huff
1/10 A. Johnston & K. Richards	L. Rosedt
1/17 T. Goulet & D. Conrad	T. Thompsen
1/24 T. Goulet & D. Conrad	A. Johnston
1/31 M. Mohr & K. Nelson	T. Scott

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2
2	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 2:30 pm Worship/Music Committee meeting 7:00pm Church Council meeting	13 11AM Food Pantry	14 7PM Choir rehearsal	15	16 2:30PM Mariposa Letter writing in Hoick
17 ^{2nd} Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 62:1-51 Corinthians 12:1-11 Ams: T. Goulet, D. Conrad Lector: T. Thompson MLK Worship/Celebration 3P M (see service folder)	18 M L King Day	19	20 11AM Food Pantry	21 7PM Choir rehearsal	22	23
24 ^{3rd} Sunday after Epiphany Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Ams: T. Goulet, D. Conrad Lector: A. Johnston Vicar's Committee meeting	25	26	27 11AM Food Pantry	28 7PM Choir rehearsal	29	30
31 RIC Sunday						



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