

March 2016

Hollywood Spotlight: News for members and friends

Hollywood Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
A Reconciling in Christ congregation

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From the Pastor

Dear members and friends of Hollywood Lutheran Church,

We have passed the mid-point in the season of Lent. Our journey continues for two more weeks and then we enter Holy Week as we observe the Sunday of the Passion, which leads us to the Resurrection of Our Lord. Many of you have joined us each Thursday for a shared meal, focus on stewardship, and mid-week worship. If you have not had the chance to do this, I encourage you to join us as you are able. We eat well, are nourished by the presentation and sharing, and enjoy vibrant worship. This is a good deal!

Upon the recommendation of the Synod and with the concurrence of our Executive Committee we have paused our Call process. This does not stop the process, but allows us some space to re-energize our efforts. To do that we will use a document entitled: "Congregational Vitality & Sustainability Quick Check". This tool allows us to simply and quickly gather opinions. Most of our Council members have already completed their forms. Congregational members will be given this opportunity beginning on Sunday, March 6. Responses are anonymous, but we will keep track of all who respond in order to make the results as comprehensive as we can. Please contact me or our Vicar to complete your

questionnaire. There are 15 questions in all; but your participation is vital as we move the Call process forward. Thanks for your help!

I met recently with Pastor Golf and two members of his congregation who will guide the development of our Thai ministry at HLC. Because of the work schedules of several of his members and the availability of space and parking, they will begin their worship services this coming Saturday, March 5, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Worship will be followed by fellowship time and meal in Hoick Hall. They are very excited that we are hosting them, as many of their initial members live in Hollywood. We look forward to the opportunities of sharing worship with these new brothers and sisters. Please join me in thanking God for this new venture!

Easter is early this year, occurring on Sunday, March 27. Our planning is underway for a memorable and festive celebration. Please plan to join us at 10:00 a.m. on Easter to celebrate Resurrection and new life. Further details will be shared in our worship bulletins. I look forward to seeing you in church!

- Pastor Jim

A Message from the Vicar

W.I.G.I.A.T? Where is God in all this?

WIGIAT which stands for the question “Where is God in all this?” was a word used by a seminary professor, Dr. Everett, to make us students pause and think. Often he would use this we were getting ourselves wrapped up in the negative cycle of “church decline and death” or when someone’s story of God or church seemed to take a sharp turn down a dark alley. He would then pull out his well-worn bible and read us a story of God’s people encountering God in the unlikeliest of places, in the physical and emotional wilderness of life.

Lent often begins to feel long, barren, perhaps even desolate, like we have entered into the wilderness scenes of the bible. It is a season full of WIGAT moments and stories. Moments and stories that give us pause and make us think. Perhaps it is a question we most frequently ask when we know God ought to be present, yet we don’t feel God’s presence.

But it isn’t just the season of Lent that brings this question to the forefront of our minds. It could be a challenging situation at work, at home with a child or spouse, or perhaps with a neighbor or relative. Maybe its wondering where God is in our own community, in our search for a pastor, and in our congregation’s activities. Especially when we feel challenged by what seems to be daunting statistics about church decline, and we notice fewer people sitting next to us on Sunday mornings.

Where is God in all this? Have we been abandoned? It might feel that way. And focusing all our attention to what is wrong, or what might go wrong, will certainly contribute to this feeling. Perhaps our attention will better serve us when we ask the question out of curiosity. Where do I see God’s presence in our community? Where is the Spirit moving us today?

In the last month, I have seen the Spirit move us in our gatherings. During the season of Lent we have gathered for worship and fellowship, not only on Sunday, but Thursday evenings as well. At the Thursday night gatherings, I have experienced God’s presence in the gift of food, prepared for the community; in the gift of conversation that seeks a deeper understanding of who we are as God’s people. It is that sense of curiosity in the question that invites me to see with a new perspective, and that gives excitement and joy for what God is doing in this place.

So I offer this challenge for you this month, to ask “where is God in all this?” in your homes, your neighborhood, your work place, and within your community of faith. And once you begin to answer that question, ask yourself how you might participate in what God is doing in this place.

Blessings to you all as we continue our Lenten journey.

- Vicar Mandy



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, March 24th – 7pm

Good Friday, March 25th – 7pm

The sanctuary will be open during the day, for individual meditation and reflection on the Stations of the Cross.

Easter Sunday – 10am

Followed by fellowship meal in Durkee. Please see sign-up sheet in Narthex, or speak with Hospitality co-chairs David Conrad, and Raoul Tapia.

A Note from the Council President

Some time ago, someone gave me an article they printed from the internet entitled “Autopsy of a Deceased Church”. I had it laying on my dining room table unread for a couple of weeks and thought I had better read it before who ever gave it to me asked about it. When I read it I could immediately see how this article related to our church and its dilemma.

Thinking about this article brought to mind a country song entitled “16th Avenue” sung by Lacy J. Dalton, it’s one of my favorites. The lyrics talk about 16th Avenue in Nashville Tennessee. This street is where 100s of people, young and old, rich and poor, come in an attempt at getting their music published or getting a recording contract. The song tells how these people live in small empty rooms “until one day some golden words roll off of someone’s tongue...”

Our situation is a little like that. Here we sit in an unassuming room discussing the future of our congregation. None of us knows where we will be in 5, 10 or 20 years, or if we will survive at all. But the answer is in the lyric of the song. One of us will, at some point speak some golden words and suddenly this church will change directions and change its mission so the people will come and the doors will stay open.

One of our biggest problems, the article points out, is that we want to look over our shoulders and say “20 years ago this is what we did, and look how great that was.” We have to stop thinking about yesterday and focus on the now. What help does East Hollywood need, what can we do for the Silver Lake area that has not already been done. Is helping to create a Thai Ministry here the answer? Perhaps we are overlooking how we can help the Russian-Armenian community. If we can just stop looking backward the answer will come to us.

I certainly don’t have the answer right now. But I keep trying to think about the needs of

community around us; what does this community really need right now, and how can we fill that need.

Everyone in this congregation needs to put on their thinking caps and help the Council come up with ways to help rejuvenate this Church.

May God Bless You All
Tom Scott, Council President

Happenings in the Library

You may be aware that some years ago, when a member of our congregation, Larry Long, passed away, his personal library was donated to Hollywood Lutheran Church. You are probably aware that the library was named after him in his honor. Over the years, books from other personal libraries have found safe harbor in our collection. In the past few years, Tomi Thompson, at our request, has been organizing the books according to topic, and labeling the shelves accordingly. Recently it was decided that those books not directly religious and/or theological in nature, be pulled and donated to local libraries. Tomi has done this work for us, cheerfully and with great care.

Take a moment to visit our library – there might be something you’d like to read. But, more importantly, give Tomi a big “Thank You” for providing such attention and care to our collection. Your work is greatly appreciated Tomi. Thank You!

Joan Riedell,
HLC Archivist

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 13th!



*"The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it away."*
-Pablo Picasso

Was this not the gift of God the true understanding of Jesus' mission?

Are we not called to the service of God's people, each according to our own gifts? Is not that the same mission of the Church? Each community of the church is unique unto itself. So therefore is its purpose.

As we approach Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Christ's triumphant Resurrection. Should we not be looking at our gifts and how we can give them away? Jesus did, and I think he knew at an early stage in his life. Many of us may still be searching for our gifts. And that is OK, as long as we are searching.

As a church family we are now once again searching for our gifts. Not only as individuals must we find our gifts and fulfill our purpose, but as a church family we must do the same. For nearly 95 years Hollywood Lutheran Church has fulfilled a mission of service to the communities around us. But what is our purpose, our mission, now and in the future?

In the years I have been a part of HLC, I have seen the many ways our church family has served the community, with the Food Pantry, the Prison Ministry, Support Groups, and many other ways. So where do we go from here? As we continue in our journey let each of give thought and prayer to not only our gifts, but those of the church.

Blessings to one and all.

Your humble servant,
Ted Goulet
HLC Sacristan

Changes in the Office

In February we bid farewell and Godspeed to two wonderful members of our community, Beth Perron and Lisa Santasiero, as they moved to central Florida. Beth has been serving as the office secretary since May 2014. In her absence, we have all taken up extra responsibilities where we are able. A big "Thank You" to David Conrad, who has temporarily taken over the front desk. In the coming weeks and months we will continue to experience changes in the office. Bear with us as we work through this time of transition.

In the meantime, Beth and Lisa sent us a brief reflection on what it meant to them that Hollywood Lutheran had an inclusive idea of welcome.

First off, Lisa and I would like to thank you for the wonderful send off. After a couple of tire issues, but we made it safely to FL.

Why is being a Reconciling in Christ congregation so important?

For me, Hollywood Lutheran Church being an RIC congregation was a blessing. I was able to come to a community that encouraged me in my faith, offered a genuine welcome, and I was able to worship God without feeling judged.

A brief background: when I would go to Catholic Mass, somewhere during the service, I would start crying. Why? Because the church didn't accept me as God had created me.

HLC did accept me and many other LGBTQ people.

We have moved to the Florida-Bahama Synod which is a synod committed to welcoming LGBTQ persons. Yes, the entire synod is RIC. Great, right? Not really, each congregation in the synod still has to do the work of building statements of genuine and inclusive welcome. Along the coast of FL, and

metro areas like Tampa, Orlando and Ft Lauderdale, there are churches that openly accept the LBGTQ community.

Unfortunately, this is not true for where we have moved. Even though the entire Synod is RIC, in the middle of FL, you cannot find such a welcoming community. To find a welcoming community we have to set aside worship practices that are deeply meaningful and attend with the UCC congregation nearby. It is a welcoming community, but it isn't the same.

Reconciling in Christ congregation make all the difference in the world and especially to someone who wants to practice their faith with traditional liturgy and worship.

The running joke (not really, purely situational) is what did I give up for Lent? My answer, an RIC congregation.

Remain open to the new millennium and the new wave of people that grace the spaces of HLC. The church, with its inclusive and genuine welcome, will mean the world to someone.

Again, thank you all for the amazing sendoff. We miss you so much. You will remain forever in our hearts.

Beth and Lisa

Celebrating Birthdays in March are:

3/8 Abilio Salguero
3/9 Lori Rostedt

Celebrating Birthdays in April are:

4/22 Mandy Achterberg

March Assisting Ministers and Lectors

Assisting Ministers	Lectors
3/6 M. Mohr & K. Nelson	A. Johnston
3/13 T. Goulet & K. Nelson	D. Collett
3/20 A. Johnston & K. Richards	M. Sorenson
3/24 TBD	TBD
3/25 TBD	TBD
3/27 M. Mohr & K. Richards	K. Richards

Prayer concerns of the community

Please offer your prayers for:

Jennifer, Carlos, Willis, Deb, Charles, Cecelia, Joe, Mary and Tim for healing;
Nadene, and Father Hans, for trust in your mercy;
Shane, Tanya, Karín, Joyce, Mary, Jeanne, Edward and Ivy, for wholeness and well-being;
Raoul Sr. and Bert; Diane, Patti, Carol, Mike, Ron and John fighting cancers;
And **Beverly, Diana, Bobby, Mario, Edward, Bob and Brenda** for hopefulness and strength.

And those who are deployed and serving our country.

A candle is lit in memory of:

Muriel Darling, friend of Mary Hohmann for 87 years.

Bella Valdez, aunt of Raoul Tapia.

Melvin Gabriel, a friend of Karla and Bill Richards.

Roger Worch, brother in law of Raoul Tapia.

To make any changes or additions to our community prayer list, please contact the office.

This newsletter consists of contributions from members of Hollywood Lutheran Church. If you wish to make a submission for the April Newsletter, please email a word document to hollyluth@sbcglobal.net by March 24th. Contact Vicar Mandy Achterberg for any questions or comments regarding the monthly newsletter.

Easter Flowers

During the season of Lent, we have removed flowers from our worship space. Thank you to Karla and Bill Richards for their donation of the willow branches. The willows will continue to grace our space until Easter, when you are invited to sponsor a living plant for the Easter garden. Please use the form below for Easter flowers. This form will be available at Worship on Sunday or pick one up from the office during normal office hours.



EASTER RESURRECTION GARDEN

Given by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

(One honor/remembrance per flower donation)

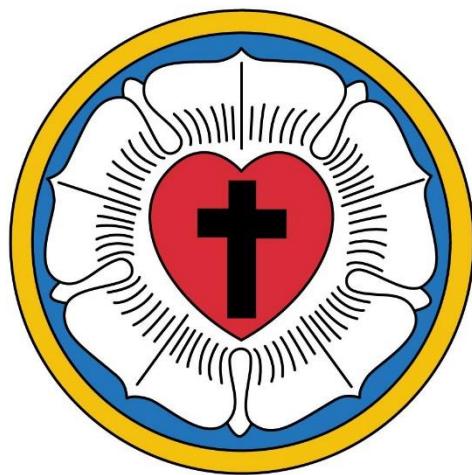
_____ Flower(s) \$12 each

(Please make check out to HLC [or cash] and fold in this flyer)

Place in offering plate

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 11AM Food Pantry	3 Lenten Gathering 6 PM Dinner and Conversation 7 PM Evening Prayer 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 4 th Sunday of Lent Joshua 5:9-12 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 AMs: M. Mohr, K. Nelson Lector: Andrew	7	8 2:30 PM Worship/Music Committee meeting 7 PM Church Council meeting	9 11AM Food Pantry	10 Lenten Gathering 6 PM Dinner and Conversation 7 PM Evening Prayer 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13 5 th Sunday of Lent Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:4b-14 AMs: T. Goulet, K. Nelson Lector: D. Collett	14	15	16 11AM Food Pantry	17 Lenten Gathering 6 PM Dinner, Conversation & Evening Prayer 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 Palm Sunday Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 AMs: A. Johnston, K. Richards Lector: M. Sorenson	21	22	23 11AM Food Pantry	24 Maundy Thursday 7 PM Foot Washing & Communion Service	25 Good Friday 7 PM Service	26
27 Easter Sunday 10 AM Worship AMs: M. Mohr, K. Richards Lector: Karla	28	29	30 11AM Food Pantry	31		



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