



## HLC Spotlight: News and views for members and friends

### February 2016

#### FROM THE PASTOR

Dear members and friends of Hollywood Lutheran Church,

We started the season of Lent with a somber worship service on Ash Wednesday. Receiving the mark of ashes on our foreheads, together with hearing the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return", always is serious. It is a powerful reminder of our mortality as our Lenten journey begins.

That journey continues each Thursday during Lent as we gather for mid-week worship.

You are welcome to join us in Hoick Hall for a simple meal. Then, we will continue our fellowship as we focus on stewardship, using a unique guide created by our Vicar Mandy. We end our evening in the sanctuary for a brief closing worship. You can be on your way home or to other appointments by 7:30p.m. Choir members will remain for their regular rehearsal. Please check the Sunday worship bulletin for additional details each week.

At the Annual Meeting of our congregation it was announced that we are pausing our Call process. That decision was made by the Executive Committee after meeting with Pastors Marge Funk-Pihl and Reg Schultz-Ackerson of our Synod staff. We will take some time for deliberation and discernment. This will allow us to return to the Call process with renewed energy and focus. Our Call process is not stopped. That is important to remember! We are pausing for additional input. Your Church Council members have already started working on an inventory that

will soon be available to our members. This tool is one more way to analyze who we are and what we understand to be our mission at Hollywood Lutheran. It will provide additional insights for our Call process. We'll invite your response very soon.

I also want to share some very good news. Our Church Council has authorized HLC to be the Host Congregation for an emerging ministry to the Thai community. Pastor Golf, who leads this ministry, also is responsible for two worship groups in the Pacifica synod. We considered this request because of our proximity to Thai Town. This emerging group will worship on Saturday morning in the sanctuary and share fellowship and lunch in Hoick. The initial agreement is for six months, but we trust that the Lord will bless this initiative and open many doors to further cooperation. Please pray for the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit in this new venture!

Finally, Vicar Mandy and I were able to meet with Dr. Brian Peterson of Lutheran Southern Seminary during a recent site visit. He asked that thanks be extended to the members of HLC for agreeing to serve as an Internship Site this year. The Seminary is grateful for our partnership in this program of formation.

In this season of Lent, may we press on in faith, always grateful for the blessings and opportunities the Lord provides. I look forward to seeing you at church.

Pastor Jim

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

This month marks the half-way point for my time serving as your vicar. As a community you have given me so many opportunities that have greatly expanded and enhanced my skills for pastoral leadership. It is incredible to notice all of the ways that you are helping to form me in my pastoral identity. That being said, we still have a significant amount of time to continue growing as a community and ever nearer to Jesus.

This past Wednesday we celebrated Ash Wednesday with a somber worship service. The marks of ashes and the remembering of the hope we have in Christ are used to begin our Lenten journey. A journey that remembers Jesus' forty days in the wilderness.

There are a number of images that we hold close to in this time.

Ash -- the tangible reminder that we are made from dust, and to dust we will eventually return. But we are not alone in our creation, but that we are all made from dust. We are all made of the same substance, we belong to one another in our creation.

Wilderness -- the sometimes frightening, and all too common place of directionless wandering. Yet the wilderness, for all its unknowns, is also the place where God finds us. Perhaps it is our letting go of having everything together, or our deep desire to be found, whatever the reason God comes to those who are lost and wandering in the desert.

Temptations -- the things we all talk about giving up during this season. The spiritual practices of saying 'no' to the things that the world says are important, and saying 'yes' to the things that God says are important.

Love of neighbor; stewarding creation, our gifts, and our time; caring for all in need.

Cross, this journey takes us to the foot of the cross. To the place where God takes on the suffering of all the world, and Jesus' outpouring of himself, the ultimate sign of love. The symbol that marked our foreheads at our baptism is again placed on us as a reminder of this love, and our call to respond with love towards the world.

Lent is more than just a season to turn inwards on ourselves. It is a Sabbath for our souls during the liturgical year. We spend so much of the church year focused on growing and growth and living God's call that we can forget to spend time repairing and preparing for new life. So Lent is a season that allows us the opportunity to pay attention to the practices in our lives — individually and communally — that make life and growth possible. Using this theme we will be exploring the practice of stewardship — what it entails, why it matters to us, and how we might use stewardship for growth.

I hope you will join us in exploring these themes and stewardship during our Lenten journey this year on Thursday evenings. Dinner and conversation will begin at 6pm, and evening prayer will begin at 7pm.

Blessings to you during your Lenten journey.

Vicar Mandy

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Celebrating in March are:

3/8 Abilio Salguero  
3/9 Lori Rostedt

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### February Assistant Ministers and Lectors

Assistant Ministers	Lectors
2/7 A. Johnston & K. Nelson	T. Thompson
2/14 M. Mohr & T. Goulet	K. Levitan
2/21 A. Johnston & T. Goulet	D. Conrad
2/28 T. Goulet & K. Nelson	B. Richards

# February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>7 Transfiguration of our Lord</p> <p><b>Exodus 34:29-35</b> <b>2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2</b></p> <p>Ams: M. Mohr, K. Nelson Lector: T. Thompson</p>	8	<p>9</p> <p>2:30 PM Worship/Music Committee meeting</p> <p>7 PM Church Council meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>11AM Food Pantry</p> <p>7 PM Imposition of Ashes &amp; Communion</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	12	13
<p>14 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</p> <p><b>Deuteronomy 26:1-11</b> <b>Romans 10:8b-13</b></p> <p>Ams: A. Johnston, T. Goulet Lector: K. Levitan</p>	15 Presidents' Day	16	<p>17</p> <p>11AM Food Pantry</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Lenten Gathering 6 PM Dinner and Conversation 7 PM Evening Prayer</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	19	20
<p>21 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</p> <p><b>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18</b> <b>Philippians 3:17--4:1</b></p> <p>Ams: A. Johnston, T. Goulet Lector: D. Conrad</p>	22	23	<p>24</p> <p>11AM Food Pantry</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Lenten Gathering 6 PM Dinner and Conversation 7 PM Evening Prayer</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	26	27
<p>28 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</p> <p><b>Isaiah 55:1-9</b> <b>1 Corinthians 10:1-13</b></p> <p>Ams: T. Goulet, K. Richards Lector: B. Richards</p>	29					



Hollywood Lutheran Church  
1733 N. New Hampshire Ave.  
Hollywood, CA 90027