

November 2014

## Paths to Renewal and Why They're So Hard to Follow

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1. Starting at the Beginning - It's difficult to imagine a peculiarly "Lutheran" version of renewal without also speaking about a renewal of the ministry of the Word of God. Though it's always helpful if ordained clergy do their part, Lutherans have never said that their preachers save anyone. We leave that to the activity of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Ministry is something God does, yet because God comes "emptied-out" in the Jesus we know from the New Testament, God's Word always arrives "emptied out" in the words and activity of regular people, including clergy. The problem is we now live in a situation where our preferred arena for watching this happen, the church as we have come to know it, finds itself increasingly cut-off from the primary centers of human life. The Trinity hasn't stopped working, Jesus is the same person he always was, God's Word still empties itself out in him and through him into the words and actions of people everywhere. Nevertheless, ordained clergy and the historic churches that employ them no longer occupy a place at the heart and hub of our culture. In a situation like this, where will we likely see renewal in the ministry of the Word of God? Probably not in church as we've come to know it nor through the activity of professional clergy whose habitat is diminishing. We're more likely to see renewal take place at the margins of church and through the activity of Christian persons without professional training or status. This suggests that Lutheran preachers might be better off if they worried less about the size of their audiences and focused more on developing the capacity of individual persons to articulate how God interacts with them through the gospel.

2. Purpose and Innovation - Churches undergoing unwanted change tend to behave as other organizations do under stress. Like living organisms, organizations act to maintain their equilibrium in the face of challenges to their well being by making internal adjustments that allow them to maintain their sense of balance. People in such organizations often act like stem cells that over time specialize to fulfill vital functions that might go unmet if someone failed to step into the breach. Adjustments like these don't depend on clarity of purpose. Rather, they tend to the basic needs of the organization. In contrast, where people start asking questions about the purpose of their work together, coping with change can give way to acting in concert with it. For Christians these conversations often end up touching on questions about God's purpose in their context and how they might fit into what God might be up to. Of course, questions about purpose tend to surface underlying disagreements about direction and goals. As a result, honest talk about purpose can be difficult to manage well and can result in decisions that put disagreement to rest but accomplish little more. Nevertheless, when people work long enough to reach consensus, the results can be dramatic. A congregation that locates its purpose for being in the work God is already doing will simply become more focused. A much needed byproduct of a healthy sense of direction is increased innovation. Once purpose becomes clear, anyone who shares that sense of purpose can discover new ways to fulfill it. Innovation spurs further innovation as people learn from past experiences. Rather than tear an organization apart by sending it in competing directions, innovation tied to clarity of purpose can help it navigate change rather than fear it.

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## Prayer List

**For those who mourn:** The family of Mollie Murphy, the family of Scott Steen, the family of Tom Creighton, the family of Laverne Johnson, the family of Lawrence Harper, the family of Kim Thornhill, the family of Allene Korineck, the family of Mary Armstrong.

**For healing:** Sarah Stafford, Jeff Mellstrom, Diane Wilson, Sandy Williams, Jerrome Duncan, Ethel Grissom, Tom Wortham, Sylvia Ford, Bernice Smith, Sissy & Lloyd Thornhill, David Stankov, David Glover & family, Dick Barnes, Ron Weekly, Jr., Carlos Paiva, Sherman Banks, Sylvester Scott, Millie Nobles, George Williams, Phyllis Taylor, Dan Miller.

*It's our custom to have a prayer list in The Shepherd's Voice. This is a partial list of those for whom we pray. If you have someone you would like on the list, or would like to be taken off the list, please call or e-mail Judy Sonier at the church office.*

## Food Pantry

When you shop for your Food Pantry donations, please consider buying the items that we give out the week that CTS serves:

Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Canned Vegetables, Canned Soup w/meat, Canned Fruit, Peanut Butter, Jelly.

## Lutheran Maritime Ministry Gifts

Knitted sea watch caps; White socks; Packaged razors; Can of shaving cream; Other shaving items (Cologne, aftershave, etc.); Deodorant; Combs, brushes; Tooth paste; Tooth brushes; Finger nail clippers/files; Note pads, pens, envelopes; Pack of playing cards; Microwave popcorn bags; Gum and/or hard candy; Anything else small enough to fit into a shoe box; Bibles, bible studies, DVDs, CDs (new, read, reusable) .

Pr. John decides that washing cars is probably not a viable second career option for him, at the CTS/HAGL Car Wash in the Spring of 2003.

## November Birthdays

11/02 Bill Korn  
Dede Campbell  
11/03 Lindsey McHugh  
11/04 Blake Whittington  
11/05 Phyllis Taylor  
11/11 Gail McHugh  
11/22 Teresa Evans

## Baptismal Birthdays

11/1 Thomas Korn  
11/12 Herman Engelhardt  
11/27 Ian Korn



## News and Notes

### Our Committee Meetings for November

Property. Sunday, Nov. 9 @ 9:00 am  
 Finance. Sunday, Nov 9 @ 11:45 am  
 Christian Education. Nov. 9 @ 11:45 pm  
 Social Ministry. Sunday, Nov. 16 @ 11:45 am  
 Evangelism. Sunday, Nov. 23 @ 11:45 am  
 Exec Comm, Sunday, Nov. 30, 11:45 am  
 WAM. To be determined.

### WELCA News

#### **SCHOOL KITS**

Our 2014 service project was for the Lutheran World Relief. We have boxed 28 school kits of 8 needed materials to start a school day. Thanks to all who participated in helping us meet this goal. The kits will go on a LWR truck next week and be taken to the LWR warehouse in Maryland or Minnesota. From there they will be used in communities where poverty or disaster has limited options for students. Depending on the needs, our kits could be used in this country or somewhere around the world.

#### **STAY AT HOME TEA**

As of this date we have made \$1,265.00 from our fundraiser, CTS Stay at Home Tea. We are thankful for a generous donation from a former member. Thank you to all who participated.

#### **WELCA THANK OFFERING**

We collected \$175 for our WELCA Thank Offering on Sunday October 5. That Sunday we celebrated Women in Ministry and Aja Brown (Compton Mayor) was our speaker. Thank you to all who were a part of the day.

#### **NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER**

The WELCA meeting normally scheduled for the first Saturday of the month has been cancelled.

### ACTS Thanksgiving Service

The annual ACTS Ecumenical Thanksgiving service will take place at Altadena Community Church, 943 E. Altadena Drive on Sunday, November 23 from 7:00-8:30 pm.

### Outreach Opportunities

The last two months of 2014 bring several opportunities to go forward and do God's work outside the confines of our church campus:

**CROP Walk.** You've heard a lot about this ministry in the last month. It's happening Sunday, Nov. 2. Registration is at 1:00 pm at Flintridge Preparatory School, 4543 Crown Ave, La Cañada Flintridge.

**Hospitality Table.** You Evangelism committee will be hosting a hospitality table for voters on Election Day, November 4, offering snacks and drinks and information about CTS. Laura Mulfinger tells us there will be three shifts— 7-9 am, Noon-2 pm, and 6-8 pm. Your presence and/or contributions of snacks and drinks will be greatly appreciated.

**Lutheran Maritime Ministry.** It's time to start thinking about what used to be called "Shoebboxes for Sailors", a Christmas gift collection of small items not usually available and/or affordable to working sailors (see page 2). We deliver them to the Seamen's Center in Long Beach in early December.

**Friends Outside.** We also purchase toys and games for the children of those who are currently in jail or prison. Toys should be appropriate for ages 3-12 and cost no more than \$15. We traditionally deliver them the week after our delivery trip to the Seamen's Center.

**Cold Weather Shelter.** As was the case last year, lack of funds will cause the Shelter to be opened on a weather-dependent basis only. Last year the weather was so good we never had a chance to serve. This year may be different! We bring, cook, and serve food; bring out and set up the cots; and hand out the personal bags of the Shelter's clients.

**Friends in Deed** is holding its 120th Anniversary celebration at Castle Green in Pasadena on Wednesday, Nov. 5 from 6-9:30 pm. It's a little pricey (\$120 per person), but it is tax deductible and Friends in Deed can certainly use the money. Tickets can be purchased by calling 626-797-4902, or online by going to Friends in Deed's website, [www.friendsindeedpas.org](http://www.friendsindeedpas.org).

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3. Where Will the New People Come From? The truth may be that they won't walk through the front door - at least not right away. Instead, new Christians might come to faith for the first time in settings that we might not recognize as church. The cultural gap between church as many of us have come to know it and the habits, preferences, and choices many people are making has given rise to breeding grounds for new Christians that lie much closer to the myriad lifestyle choices marketers love to identify but that mystify many of us. We seem to be living in a time where the distance a person has to travel to become a Christian is much longer than we remember. Yet they are coming from all directions. Contemporary western societies place a premium on personal freedom. Popular culture has no clear center. Consequently, people who wind up becoming Christians don't all start in the same place. As much as we might wish for them to start with us, very few probably will do that. Despite this, the news is not all bad. Historic Christian churches haven't lasted as long as they have by accident. We are the bearers of centuries of human experience, deep spirituality, practical wisdom, and time-tested teachings about God and life. Besides, we know that God is with us! While we might wish we could make more new Christians than we do, we might end up being the temporary or permanent home for many who are beginning their pilgrimage right now. Perhaps even more exciting is the recent evidence that suggests that newer expressions of church do from time to time partner up with historic churches to the benefit of both. The lesson here may be that we should be content with who God has let us be and become. We may not yet see how we fit into the larger picture of God's purposes, but that's OK because we trust God with our present and future.

4. Going Long with the Gospel. You've probably heard me tell the story of my relatives on my mother's side of the family in the decades shortly after the Civil War. People didn't live as long in those days as they do now, and they also tended to have a lot more children. So when one of my male ancestors died as the result of a farm accident, his widow married the hired man and he in turn became the stepfather of a boatload of children, the youngest of whom was my great grandfather. Till that time, none of those kids had gone to church, been baptized or any of that. But when the widow and the hired man got married all those kids got baptized and some were confirmed soon afterwards. From that time on, the people I came from on my mother's side of the family started to be church-going Christians. I don't know if they were Lutheran or Reformed. I'm impressed by that story because I think it says a thing or two about the kind of person I turned out to be. In fact, I might not be writing this overblown newsletter article but for what happened those many years ago on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. Our awareness is shaped by what we see and know. For many of you reading this article what matters most is the well being of our congregation at the corner of Glenrose and Altadena Drive. But I'd like to suggest the meaning of what we do here from week to week can't be evaluated on the basis of our limited frame of reference. Any time the Holy Spirit uses us to shine a light on how Jesus holds nothing back but gives us all that he has to give, faith in God's great love for us can wake up somewhere for someone. And who knows where that might lead?

One of your friends in Christ,  
Pastor Mark Witte

## Advent Program

Looking ahead to December, Pr. Witte will be offering a Wednesday night three-week Advent program on December 3, 10, and 17 from 7:00-8:30 pm. The general theme will be "the role the incarnation plays in the Gospel". Unlike our Lenten programs, we will not be having a soup supper before the discussion, and won't be having a service afterwards. However, people are invited to bring refreshments to share (either Christmas themed or not). We're also sure Pr. Witte will want you to bring your Bibles! And pencils!!

## Inreach Opportunities

Our congregation is known and appreciated for its many activities in support of the local community and the broader world around us—by sharing our monetary wealth as well as the sweat of our brows. From time to time, we need to look inside at the needs of the church and consider how best we can support them. Several opportunities for doing “inreach” are available in November and beyond.

**Stewardship.** In a return to a practice that used to be common at CTS many years ago, your Stewardship Chair, Garrett Biehle, has set up cottage meetings where the congregation “can consider in a more deliberate way our understanding of our part in God’s mission and our stewardship of God’s gifts.” There will be three meetings in the first week of November:

Sunday, Nov. 2 at 4:30 pm. at the Chisum’s home, 1053 N. Mar Vista Avenue, Pasadena.

Thursday, Nov. 6 at 7:30 pm at the Korn’s home, 2695 N. Marengo Avenue, Altadena.

Saturday, Nov 9 at 2:30 pm at the Biehle/Whittington’s home, 2650 McNally Avenue, Altadena.

Refreshments will be provided, but if you want to bring something to share your offer will not be turned away. Garrett hopes that all who are able can attend one of these meetings. Please contact Garrett at 626-797-0924 or at [gtbiehle@blakeroo.com](mailto:gtbiehle@blakeroo.com) to let him know which meeting you plan to attend.

**Service Assistants.** In the last few months our congregation has temporarily or permanently lost the services of several Deacons and Ushers due to illness or to moving away from Altadena. Your Worship Arts Ministry committee welcomes people interested in taking on one of these worship tasks. Neither task is especially onerous, and is made less so when there are many people available to serve. With a full complement of service assistants, it would be rare for a person to serve in either role more than once per month. Training is provided, and experience is not necessary.

**Church Council.** Laura Mulfinger and Wayne Campbell will be leaving the Council at the end of the year. They have been invaluable in providing leadership to meet our congregation’s challenges and expand its horizons. We all are very grateful for their service, which they will continue as members of the Property and Evangelism Committees. The Council is looking for two new members who can continue the leadership so necessary for the functioning of the church. A Council term lasts for three years. Meetings usually occur no more than monthly (except for a break in August). Most meetings last between one and two hours. As someone who knows, your humble(?) editor can attest that the job is not the most glamorous, but it is very important to the life and the health of the congregation.

**Call Committee.** As your Council reported last week, CTS is starting the process of self-evaluation, prayerful attention to God’s intentions for us, and discernment to determine where the congregation is right now, where it wants to go, and what kind of pastor they believe will help it get there. The Council will select one of its members to serve on this committee, another five are needed from the congregation. The process is expected to take about a year, with an emphasis on the front end during which time a Ministry Site Profile is created and sent to the Synod. The Committee will also examine the qualifications of and interview candidates for the position, eventually recommending a candidate to the Council and ultimately to the Congregation. Again, this is not a glamorous job, nor is it easy, but it is necessary.

Virtually all members of CTS make valuable contributions to the internal life of the congregation every week. We ask that you all reflect and ask for God’s guidance about another contribution to our congregation.

# Serving in Worship

November 2014	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
<b>Liturgical Day</b>	All Saints	Pentecost 22	Pentecost 23	Christ the King	I Advent
<b>Musician</b>	Sandi Holden	Sandi Holden	Sandi Holden	Sandi Holden	Sandi Holden
<b>Deacon</b>	Dolores Scott	Bill Korn	Carolyn Spurlock	Garrett Biehle	Peter Holden
<b>Server/Acolyte</b>	Garrett Biehle Robby Holden	Dede Campbell Robby Holden	Emerald Bailer Zoie Chisum	Keinon Chin- Robinson Nathalie Jaramillo	Lennon Holden Nathalie Jaramillo
<b>Lector</b>	Marcia Brown	Wayne Campbell	Valerie Jones	Valerie Jones	Al Schoepke
<b>Offertory Prayer</b>	Deacon	Deacon	Deacon	Deacon	Deacon
<b>Ushers</b>	Jordan Boye Marcia Brown	Marcia Brown Wayne Campbell	Jordan Boye Valerie Jones	Valerie Jones Zetta Robinson	Zetta Robinson Al Schoepke
<b>Communion Care</b>	Dolores Scott	Rita Mello	Esmeralda Bailer	Ruth Creighton	Dolores Scott
<b>The Lessons</b>	Rev 7:9-17 Psalm 34:1-10,22 I John 3:1-3 Matt 5:1-12	Amos 5:18-24 Psalm 70 I Thess 4:13-18 Matt 25:1-13	Zeph 1:7,12-18 Psalm 90:1-12 I Thess 5:1-11 Matt 25:14-30	Ezek 34:11-16,20-24 Psalm 95:1-7a Eph 1:15-23 Matt 25:31-46	Isa 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 I Cor 1L3-9 Marl 13:24-37
<b>Social Hour</b>	The Mulfingers	WELCA November Birthdays	Judy Sonier	Sandy Williams	The Wittes

# November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 1:00 pm <u>CROP Walk</u> 4:30 Cottage Meeting	3	4 Election Hos- pitality Table 7-9 am 12-2 pm 5-8 pm	5 6:00 pm Friends in Deed 120th Anni- versary	6 7:30 pm Cottage Meeting	7	8 9:30 am Food Pantry <u>Team I</u> 2:30 pm Cottage Mtg.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 7:00 pm Church Council	19	20 12:00 Noon <u>PACT Meeting</u> 6:00 pm AA/CA Secretaries	21	22
23/30 7:00 pm ACTS Service at A.C.C. (Nov. 23)	24/31	25	26	27 THANKS- GIVING	28	29

Sunday Service with Holy Communion, starts at 10:00 am every Sunday, followed by refreshments in the Social Hall. See page 3 for committee meetings.

CHRIST THE  
SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

185 W. Altadena Dr.  
Altadena

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**We're on the Web**  
**[www.ctsaltadena.org](http://www.ctsaltadena.org)**

## Worship

Sundays: 10:00 a.m. The Eucharist  
Nursery Care Available

## Our Mission

We, the people of God at Christ the Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church are called to witness to Jesus Christ, crucified and resurrected, in our worship, our daily lives, and through our Christian service in the community. In faithfulness to this calling, we are committed to defend human dignity, to stand with poor and powerless people, to advocate justice, to work for peace, and to care for the earth. Inspired by the Holy Spirit and compelled by God's love for all people, we commit ourselves to invite and welcome ALL into our church regardless of race, nationality, culture, social status, or sexual orientation.

Mark Witte, Interim Pastor  
Sandi Holden, Musician

Sandy Williams, President ('16)  
Peter Holden, Vice President ('16)  
William Korn, Treasurer ('15)  
Garrett Biehle, Secretary, Stewardship ('14)  
David Chisum, Social Ministry ('14)

Judith Sonier, Office Manager  
Jeff Mellstrom, Financial Secretary

Wayne Campbell, Property ('14)  
Katherine Ellis-Schoepke, Christian  
Education ('16)  
Valerie Jones, Worship Arts ('16)  
Laura Mulfinger, Evangelism ('16)

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