

## Suppose We Transported Ourselves...

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Suppose we transported ourselves 30 or 40 years into the future, looked around, and saw little or no sign of the Lutheran churches we attended or knew about. And let's say we hunted around for a while to see if we could find any Lutheran Christians. How would we recognize them? What would they be up too? Might they surprise us?

Though it's hazardous to make predictions about anything, I often wonder about these questions.

Several years ago I noticed an advertisement that proclaimed, "The Future Starts Now!" That catchy slogan stuck with me. When I think about the church I don't try to draw mental lines between the church of today and the church of tomorrow. But I do think that slogan is on the mark: The future is happening now.

Before I take you on a short trip into the future that may already be happening, I need to tell you something else. I assume the future, like the present, can go wrong. Just because we can imagine a positive future outcome doesn't mean it will turn out that way. What might go right can also turn out badly.

Where did all the preachers go?

It's hard to imagine a future for Lutheran Christians without a renewal of the ministry of God's Word, and maybe also a major shift in the course of its delivery. Perhaps fewer preachers will look like me, working out of a church building as I do; while more of them will look like you, who don't. Historically, we've entrusted persons representing the church's public ministry with this task. But does the ministry of Jesus Christ who comes to us on his own initiative as the incarnate Word of God ever depend on our ability to recruit and train enough church professionals? I don't think so. The question that matters most is this: Will preachers, whoever they are, deliver the authentic saving Word of God? Will those who hear that Word believe it and come to treasure it? If they do they might begin transmitting it themselves.

Creativity, chaos, and teamwork

Disclosure: The above tagline isn't my creation. It's a slogan for the email marketing company, Mail Chimp. I'm using it here because I think it captures the innovative spirit of an entrepreneurial culture we associate with business start-ups. If we could travel into the future to root around for and speak with some Lutheran Christians, my guess is we'd hear stories about creativity, chaos, teamwork as well many tales of disappointment. But I think those stories would quite exciting to listen to.

Maybe part of the reason we'd see so few familiar-looking churches in the future stems from an unavoidable risk associated with settling down. It's much easier to treat settled church as a kind of precious family heirloom that everyone tries to preserve. Once dislodged, this much is clear: the church is in the hands of the Holy Spirit. But isn't that always true? Read Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in John 3 and Article 5 of the Augsburg Confession on the Ministry of the Word of God. Imagine what it would be like if church were treated less as a heirloom and more like a start-up.

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### Prayer List

**For those who mourn:** The family of Diane Marguerite Wilson, the family of Herman Sonier, the family of Jonathon Kenion, the family of Sarah Stafford, 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:** Phil Duncan, Jeff Mellstrom, 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.*

### April Birthdays

- 4/2 Elicia Duncan
- 4/17 Zoie Chisum
- 4/18 Michael Baietti
- Brian Mellstrom
- 4/20 Noah Mulfinger

### Baptismal Birthdays

- 4/14 Jetalia Fairley



### ACTS 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.

## News and Notes

### Committee Meetings for April

Apr 12	9:00 am	Property
	11:45 am	Finance
	12:15 pm	Executive Committee
Apr 13	6:00 pm	Church Council
Apr 19	11:45 am	Education
		Social Ministry
Mar 22	11:45 am	Evangelism

The Worship Arts Committee will not meet in April.

### Pastor Witte Called!

At our Congregational Meeting on March 8, the Congregation took an official vote on whether or not to call Pr. Witte to be our permanent half-time Pastor. There were 34 votes recorded, of which 34 were Yes and none were No. At the Church Council meeting on March 16, Pr. Witte signed the Call agreement and received his official Certificate of Call (see page 2). May God guide Pr. Witte and the Congregation to discern God's will for our ministry and go forward to implement it.

### Spring Retreat

Please mark Saturday, May 2nd on your calendars. Pr. & Jo Witte will be hosting a Spring Retreat at their home. The Witte's will provide drinks, and they ask participants to bring potluck items for lunch. The retreat is expected to run from 10am—2pm.

Often, church retreats are restricted to members of the church "leadership", a term which could be very hard to define at CTS, as so many people take the lead in one ministry or another. This retreat, however, is open to all members of the congregation. You'll be hearing more about this in the coming month.

### Easter Group Picture

We've had a tradition in the past several years of posing for a group picture after the Easter Festival Service. We would like to do it again in 2015! Be there or be square!!

### Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday. March 29 @ 10:00 am at CTS.  
Maundy Thursday. April 2 @ 7:00 pm at CTS.  
Good Friday. April 3 @ 7:00 pm at CTS.  
Easter Vigil. April 4 @ 7:00 pm at Trinity.  
Sunrise Service. April 5 @ 6:00 am at CTS.  
Easter Brunch. April 5 @ 8:00 am at CTS.  
Easter Egg Hunt. April 5 @ 9:00 am at CTS.  
Festival Service. April 5 @ 10:00 am at CTS.

Congregants from Trinity Lutheran Church will join us for the Good Friday and Sunrise services. CTS congregants are invited to participate in the Easter Vigil at Trinity.

### WELCA Day Trip

Marcia Brown, Katherine Ellis, Valerie Jones, Kathy Korn, Zetta Robinson, Judy Sonier, and Sandy Williams traveled on Saturday, March 4, to Olivet Lutheran Church in Hawthorne. It was our Southern California Southwest Synod WELCA Winter Gathering – "RISE UP for justice".

We gathered and enjoyed conversation and then were served brunch by the Angelica Lutheran Church women. We moved to the sanctuary, where SWO President Claudia Cuevas greeted us. Reverend Donella Silveira led our worship. Our offering was split between church wide WELCA and Prison Recovery Bibles Program at Hope Lutheran in Hollywood. Music was a great part of our morning.

Mark Coates led us with lively music, hand clapping and singing from our hearts. (It's Me Oh Lord, What a Friendship, Guide My Feet and others). Reverend Jonathan Hemphill, Pastor of Another Level Ministries, led the presentation. The theme "Justice For All" was from the scripture Micah 6:8. This requires of us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord. A great day with the sisters in Christ.

# Serving in Worship

<b>April 2015</b>	<b>April 5</b>	<b>April 12</b>	<b>April 19</b>	<b>April 26</b>
<b>Liturgical Day</b>	<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>2 Easter</b>	<b>3 Easter</b>	<b>4 Easter</b>
<b>Musician</b>	Brian Havey	Brian Havey	MacKenzie Wright	Brian Havey
<b>Deacon</b>	Bill Korn	Garrett Biehle	Eric Mulfinger	Peter Holden
<b>Server/ Acolyte</b>	Bill Korn Zoie Chisum	Garrett Biehle Zoie Chisum	Emerald Bailer Robbie Holden	Dede Campbell
<b>Lector</b>	Dede Campbell	Wayne Campbell	Bill Korn	Dede Campbell
<b>Ushers</b>	Jordan Boye Zetta Robinson	Marcia Brown Wayne Campbell	Wayne Campbell Zetta Robinson	Jeff Mellstrom Robert Spurlock
<b>Communion Care</b>	Rita Mello	Ruth Creighton	Esmeralda Bailer	Cece Guiar
<b>The Hymns</b>	ELW 367 ELW 361 ELW 365	TO	BE	ANNOUNCED
<b>The Lessons</b>	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 1 Corinthians 5:1-11 Mark 16:1-8	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1—2:2 John 20:19-31	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18
<b>Social Hour</b>	WELCA	LUNCH FOR SALE!	Holdens/Chisums	Colleen Boye

# April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday	3 7:00 pm Good Friday	4 7:00 pm Easter Vigil @ Trinity
5 EASTER SUNDAY (see Page 3)	6	7	8	9	10	11 8:00am-8:00pm Carpet Critter <u>Fundraiser</u> 9:30 am Food Pantry Team II
12	13 6:00 pm Church Council	14 11:45 ACTS Lunch	15	16 12:00 pm PACT Meeting	17	18 1:00-6:00 pm CA Fundraiser
19	20	21	22 6:00 pm Spring Conference Assembly	23 6:00 pm AA/CA Secretaries	24	25 12:00-4:00 pm WELCA Tea
26	27	28	29	30		

Sunday Service with Holy Communion, starts at 10:00 am every Sunday, followed by refreshments in the Social Hall. The schedule for committee meetings can be found on page 3.

(continued from page 1)

What is church?

It's possible that if we were able to travel into the future and find some Lutheran Christians, we might be somewhat mystified by what many of them did. I'm sure we'd find some congregations that resemble ones we're used to. But we'd probably also run into a whole range of connectedness and association that might not fit neatly into our present idea of what constitutes "church." Yet, if we stuck around long enough, we might agree that it was.

Ready to be beamed back?

For Lutheran Christians a visit into the future might be an exhilarating experience. It might also be like a bad dream. But if it's true that "The Future Starts Now" we may not be able to postpone it. For several years I've thought how exciting it might be to take that first step into the future that begins today. But I do wonder whether we're ready to embrace creativity, chaos, teamwork, and a shared sense of the ministry of the Word of God.

One of your friends in Christ,  
Pastor Mark Witte



Friends In Deed & The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Los Angeles Council present

# FRIENDS IN CONCERT

*together in music & service*

*a benefit concert for Friends In Deed*

NO ACT OF CHARITY IS FOREIGN TO THE SOCIETY

**FRIENDS IN DEED** \* *Doing together what we cannot do alone.*

featuring  
**The Caltech-Occidental Symphony**  
Allen Robert Gross, Director  
with Cécilia Tsan, cello  
playing Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in E minor  
"From the New World" and music by Weber,  
Fauré and Tchaikovsky

**Saturday, April 11th 8:00 PM**  
St. Philip the Apostle Church, 151 S. Hill Ave. Pasadena

**Tickets**  
Conductor's Circle - \$75 - includes exclusive pre-concert reception with conductor Allen Gross & cellist Cécilia Tsan  
Reserved Orchestra Seating - \$50  
Friendship Seating - \$25

information & tickets: [WWW.FRIENDSINDEEDPAS.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSINDEEDPAS.ORG)

Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

## Women's Day Tea April 25, 2015



Come and join us for fine tea, fine food, and great conversation among Christian sisters.

### WELCOME ALL

**When:** Saturday

**Time:** 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**Place:** 185 W. Altadena Drive,  
Altadena in the Social Hall

**Dress:** tea time attire, hats encouraged

**Bring:** yourself and a friend

Love offering collected to help a local charity.

Door prize. A spiritual reading.

**RSVP:** by April 18 to our church office 626-794-7011

CHRIST THE  
SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

185 W. Altadena Dr.  
Altadena

Phone: 626-794-7011

Fax: 626-794-7063

E-mail: [office@ctsaltadena.org](mailto:office@ctsaltadena.org)

**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 pledge to embrace our neighbors and spread God's all-inclusive love.

## Jesus welcomed

everyone He encountered in His day but especially those everyone else rejected. We at Christ the Shepherd seek to welcome everybody today and especially those who have been rejected elsewhere.

Mark Witte, Pastor  
Judith Sonier, Office Manager

Jeff Mellstrom, Financial Secretary

Sandy Williams, President, Property ('16)  
Peter Holden, Vice President ('16)  
William Korn, Treasurer ('15)  
Garrett Biehle, Secretary, Stewardship ('17)  
David Chisum, Social Ministry ('17)

Katherine Ellis-Schoepke, Christian  
Education ('16)  
Valerie Jones, Worship Arts ('16)  
Zetta Robinson, Evangelism ('16)  
Lennon Holden, Youth

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