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## Faces in the Photo

It seems safe to say I'm no longer the newest face in that Easter Day photo we take each year on the church steps. I think you'll find this year's photo displayed in a prominent place at church very soon. When you have a chance to look at it, try to pick out the new faces in it. There's the young girl with long black hair standing in front of Laura and the young woman tucked in between Elicia and Justin on the far right side. Oh, and in the upper left-hand corner there's our church musician, Brian. Other than that I think nearly everyone else in the photo has appeared in one or more CTS Easter photos from the past. Now that also includes me.

Easter is a time newcomers appear in church. At least that's an assumption we make. Anticipating newcomers might attend worship here on Easter Day, our Evangelism Committee made sure we had a fresh Easter-themed banner posted at our driveway entrance several weeks in advance. We also produced well-designed fliers publicizing our Holy Week worship services and a separate set of fliers for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Knowing that Jo and I would be hosting a holiday gathering at our home shortly after church on Easter Day, I took postage stamps and some of our new church stationery home with me on Saturday so I could send thank-you notes to visitors who might join us for Easter worship without waiting till Wednesday when I finally returned to the office. I even requested help from our Evangelism Committee so I could take any signed visitor registration cards or guest book entries home with me right after church on Easter Sunday. Yet, when the time came to collect this information as I prepared to head home, there was nothing for me to take. We had no visitors sign our registration forms. There were no new entries in our guest book.

We assume that people with an interest in Jesus or God or the gospel might try to satisfy that interest by using an occasion like Easter to come to church, just to try it out. Maybe we think that people who come to embrace Christianity do so by starting, at some point in their lives, to attend church regularly. Yet, when you look at the data presented by organizations that monitor significant social trends (like the Pew Research Center), the proportion of people who identify themselves as Mainline Protestants, Roman Catholics, and even Evangelical Christians is not keeping pace with U.S. population overall. While other religious groups exist in greater numbers in this country than in the past, the group that has seen the most significant increase over the past twenty-five or thirty years are those who have no interest in any religion in particular.

By mentioning this I don't think I'm telling you something you don't already know. What I would like to share with you is my hunch that there are many people, all around us, who think Jesus should be taken seriously or that God exists and cares. Yet, when they reach for God they don't also reach for church.

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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:** Judy Sonier, John Brooks, Phil Duncan, Jeff Mellstrom, Sandy Williams, Jerome 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.*

### May Birthdays

5/10 Wayne Campbell  
 5/15 Jeff Mellstrom  
 5/17 Jerrome Duncan  
 5/18 Van Brown  
 5/19 Lennon Holden  
 5/23 Kathy Korn  
 5/24 Thomas Korn

### Baptismal Birthdays

5/1 Jerrome Duncan



### 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 May

May 03	11:45 am	Worship Arts Ministry
May 10	9:00 am	Property
	11:45 am	Finance
	12:15 pm	Executive Committee
May 17	11:45 am	Social Ministry
		Education
May 18	6:00 pm	Church Council
Mar 24	11:45 am	Evangelism

### 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. The main topic will be developing an “umbrella strategy” to help guide the future of CTS and its ministry.

### Installation

There is no question anymore that Pr. Witte is our permanent Pastor. We've voted to call him (twice!), he's signed the appropriate documents, and has received his Certificate of Call signed by the Bishop.

### HOWEVER

There is one thing we *haven't* done yet. We have not formally installed Pr. Witte during a church service. We're going to do *that* on Sunday, May 24th. The Rev. Reginald Schultz-Ackerson from Synod will do the honors. WELCA is pledging to have a nice post-installation spread available at Social Hour. As your humble(?) editor has said, often, “Be There or Be Square”.

### Aid to Nepal

We're sure virtually all of you have heard about the massive earthquake in Nepal on April 25th and the suffering that has followed it. No matter how high the counts of dead and injured may climb, it's certain that all people in the devastated region will be affected for years to come. Nepal is among the poorest countries in the world, and has neither the resources nor the organization to recover easily.

For that reason, your Social Ministry Committee is recommending that all donations made for World Hunger on World Hunger Sunday (May 3) be sent to Lutheran World Relief and earmarked for Nepal. Since not everybody at CTS attends services every week, donations for this purpose will be accepted throughout the five Sundays in May. Simply use a World Hunger envelope in the pews, or (if you make a consolidated donation) earmark some of it for “World Hunger” or “Nepal”. The donations will be sent to Lutheran World Relief on June 1.

### From the PACT Meeting

You've heard for months about CTS' presence at the PACT Resources Fair—how we collect prayer requests from those recently incarcerated, invite them to our services, and provide bus tokens for those needing transportation to help them get reintegrated into society.

There are many other organizations that provide services at the PACT Fair. From time to time as space permits we'll let you know about them. It may be that you know someone who could benefit from them, or maybe you, as an individual or part of an outreach made by CTS, would want to participate in them.

This month we are featuring the L.A. Fathers Program. Currently operating out of L.A. Children's Hospital, this program provides resources, guidance, and parenting workshops to young fathers, ages 15-25. The program is scheduled to open branch offices in Pasadena at the Flintridge Center, 236 W. Mountain Street. For more information, please see page 7 and the attached brochure.

# Serving in Worship

May 2015	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
<b>Liturgical Day</b>	5 Easter	6 Easter	7 Easter	Pentecost	Holy Trinity
<b>Musician</b>	Brian Havey	Brian Havey	MacKenzie Wright	Brian Havey	Brian Havey
<b>Deacon</b>	Peter Holden	Eric Mulfinger	Garrett Biehle	Reta Duncan	Bill Korn
<b>Server/ Acolyte</b>	Dede Campbell Robby Holden	Carolyn Spurlock	Emerald Bailer Zoie Chisum	Dolores Scott	Nathalie Jaramillo Robby Holden
<b>Lector</b>	Valerie Jones	Dede Campbell	Valerie Jones	Bill Korn	Garrett Biehle
<b>Ushers</b>	Valerie Jones Jeff Mellstrom	Jordan Boye Wayne Campbell	Wayne Campbell Zetta Robinson	Valerie Jones Zetta Robinson	Jordan Boye Marcia Brown
<b>Communion Care</b>	Cece Guiar	Sandy Williams	Esmeralda Bailer	Rita Mello	Ruth Creighton
<b>The Hymns</b>	ELW 625 ELW 658 ELW 796	TO	BE	ANNOUNCED	!!!
<b>The Lessons</b>	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 I John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 I John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Acts 1:15-17.21-26 Psalm 1 I John 5:9-13 John 17:16-19	Acts 2:1-21 Ps 104:24-34,35b Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17
<b>Social Hour</b>	LUNCH FOR SALE!	TBD	Holdens/Chisums	WELCA	The Wittes

# May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10am-2pm Spring Retreat @ Pr. Witte's
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 9:30 am Food Pantry Team I
10	11	12 11:45 ACTS Lunch	13	14	15	16
17	18 6:00 pm Church Council	19	20	21 12:00 pm PACT Meeting	22	23
24 Pr. Witte Installation 31	25	26	27	28 6:00 pm AA/CA Secretaries	29	30 10am-10pm Carpet Critters Fundraiser

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.

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This realization began to dawn on me seven or eight years ago. Around then I heard a comment that has stuck with me ever since. It goes something like this: "If our only way of sharing the gospel with new people means waiting for them to come to church, we're going to wait a very long time."

Of course, we hope some new people will want to become part of our Christ the Shepherd community. But knowing that our work to help other people embrace the faith we've come to cherish may not always translate into more people in church on Sunday, we have a question to consider. How might a church like ours help people come to faith in the gospel who may never show up in one of our Easter Day group photos? After considering this afresh since Easter last month, I have to admit I don't have an answer to share with you. But I do think there is an answer to this question - an answer thoroughly soaked in our peculiar Christ the Shepherd ethos and history. Maybe some of you have been wondering about this too. If so, please let me know that I'm not only one.

One of your partners in the gospel,  
Mark Witte, Pastor

## Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

WELCA meets monthly beginning with a business meeting, followed by the study of God's Word. We administer to our church, community, and the needs of the world.

WELCA programs and activities include:

- Help a Family
- School bags for community organization
- Health kits, school materials, and aid supplies for Lutheran World Relief
- Easter Breakfast
- Father's Day Luncheon
- Cash gift for High School graduates
- Stipends for college students
- Celebration of Women in Ministry Sunday
- Participation in volunteering for Bad Weather Shelter and Friends Indeed organization's Food Pantry
- Birthday cards for all members and cake every other month
- Supplies for Women and Children's shelter



For more information on the different programs that are participating please visit or call:

[Chla.org/lafathers](http://Chla.org/lafathers)

(323)-361-5982

[Peaceoverviolence.org](http://Peaceoverviolence.org)

(626) 584-6191

[flintridge.org](http://flintridge.org)

(626) 449-0839

## Empowering Young Fathers

### And Father Figures

## In the Pasadena Area

Come to Flintridge Center in order to learn about a new resource for San Gabriel Valley youth:

The "L.A. Fathers" Program —A resource for young fathers from Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

"L.A. Fathers" is working in conjunction with Peace Over Violence and the Flintridge Center to bring non-violent parenting (Echo Parenting Center), Healthy Relationships, and vocational workshops to the Pasadena area.

"L.A. Fathers" helps young fathers, or those acting in the role of a father, ages 15-25.

Every Thursday Afternoon

4:30 to 6:30 PM

Starting May 7th

Location:

Flintridge Center

236 W Mountain St #106

Pasadena CA 91103

Transportation Tokens and Diapers provided in group every week!

Please RSVP or contact with questions

**Diego Castañeda**

[dcastaneda@chla.usc.edu](mailto:dcastaneda@chla.usc.edu)

(323) 361-7039



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

Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church  
185 W. Altadena Dr.  
Altadena, CA 91001