

September 2017

SPOTLIGHT

Issue 17-01

a publication of Hollywood Lutheran Church



A picture of the eclipse light going through a colendar to
make small crescent shapes.

the restart issue

ECLIPSE

Beloved Community,

What's your shape? you start to consider the options and maybe even giggle at the possible answers, let me ask a better question. What do you allow to shape you? Yes, this is a better question for Christians concerned with loving God and loving our neighbors.

Recently, God's creation taught us a lesson about being attentive to what we allow to shape us and not worrying as much about our shape. The lesson came as a solar eclipse. Right before midday, the moon passed in front of the sun for moment, shaping the rays of light. Scientists, curious children and novice sky-gazers flocked to front yards and streets to see the phenomena. If you had special lenses, you could look at the sun and see the light from the sun was being shaped by the moon; the sun was a crescent shape. However, to the bare eye and to the distracted mind the sun would have looked the same; it would have appeared to be the same old sphere we've had for hundreds and thousands of years. Nothing special or unique, just a sphere.

Interestingly, the light rays that sped to Earth's surface were also being shaped into a crescent. This was harder to see. But if you had made pin hole camera,

which is a dark box that allows only a small amount light in through a small puncture, you would have seen the sun rays came through to form a small crescent shape. If this sounds like too much work, you could have taken anything with small holes outside and observed the shapes the light formed in the shadow on the sidewalk. That's what I did. The cover image is the eclipse light going through a colander, casting tiny crescents; small images of the sunlight being shaped by the moon.

The amazing part and maybe the sad part is that if you weren't being intentional to see the eclipse, it was easy to miss. Sad because if you were in a hurry, you could have assumed it was just a cloudy day and missed it completely. Amazing because if you were being attentive to not only the sphere shape of the sun, but how the sun was being shaped, you would have

experienced a once in a life time opportunity.

The same goes for us, Beloved Siblings in Christ. If we go about life just assuming it is our shape that matters: our shape meaning who we are, who we are not, what we do, what we don't do, our beliefs, our politics, our history and our traditions, we may be missing an opportunity that God is giving us. Maybe, these things, maybe, our shape matters less, and how we are being actively shaped by God matters more. How does the life of Jesus Christ shape you today? How does the dearest sacrifice of God's only son and his resurrection shape who you are today? What is God calling the church to be today? What is God calling you to be today? Where is God calling you today? Not too long ago, Matthew 14 popped up in our worship, sharing the story of feeding the five-thousand. The story can



transform our lives. The disciples felt certain they knew their own shape, the shape of the world, the shape of their traditions, the shape of what is possible in the world. Jesus intervened, like he does for us today, and brought their attention to being shaped by him beyond their tradition and beyond what they imagined impossible, revealing the glory and power of God. When they cared less about the shape and more about being shaped by Jesus, a miracle occurred. This is a great lesson.

Be attentive. Care less about what shape you think you are, who you are or what you need. Care more about how your faith is shaping you, how God stands before you, eclipsing your self will and ego and shaping your light to his will for the world.

Warmth, thanks, and blessings,
Pastor Joseph

Upcoming Calendar

OASIS Concert Series

Oct 29 Puccini's Tosca

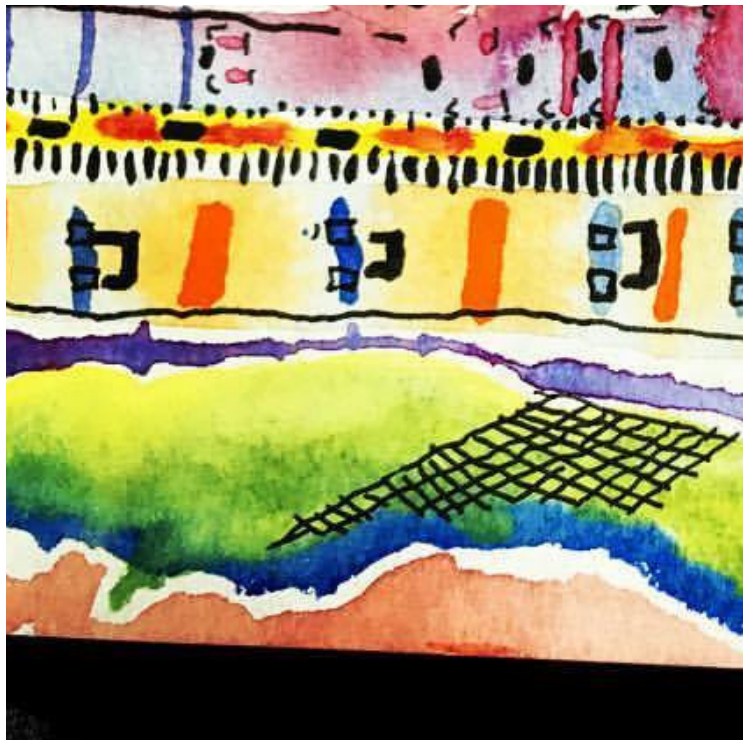
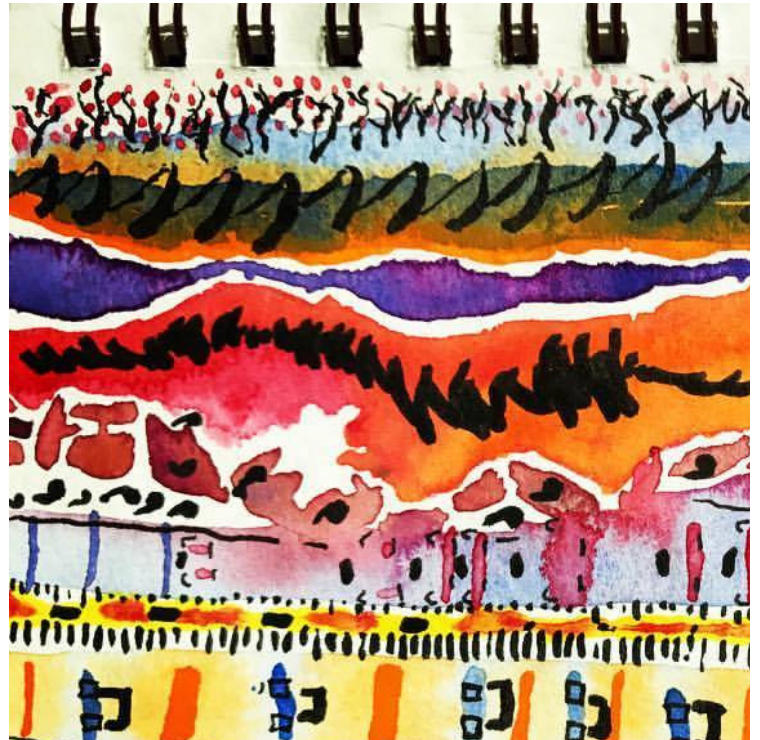
Nov 18 Anna Bolena

TBD Christina Rozhart Recital

For details

www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net

The goal of OASIS is simple- To connect to the joy of live music! Professional musicians perform without charge for the benefit of the whole community. All concerts are one-of-a-kind and free to the public.



Community Happenings

Transformational Bible Study Series
Tuesdays 7:30pm
Sep 19 + 26, Oct 3, 17 + 31, and Nov 7.

Anyone interested in a leadership book study related church development speak with Pastor.

Other Happenings

Sep 10 HLC Choir returns for worship services
Sep 17 @ 4pm Lutherans Concerned LA Annual Meeting
Oct 22 Mt. Hollywood Talent Show

Contribute to photos, paintings, poems,
articles, events, and more to SPOTLIGHT by
emailing pastorjosephcc@gmail.com by
September 25th.

Poem Contributor	Your name could be here
Article Contributor	Your name could be here
Painting Contributor	Your name could be here
Photo Contributor	Your name could be here
Calendar Contributor	Your name could be here
Senior Editor	Your name could be here
Design Editor	Your name could be here

If you or anyone you should meet needs pastoral care,
prayer before surgery, communion, or a home
blessing please put them in contact with Pastor Joseph
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