

October 2017

# SPOTLIGHT

Issue 17-02

A Newsletter of Hollywood Lutheran Church



A picture of the flowing fountain in our courtyard, a space of meditation and movement.

the restart series  
FLOWING BETWEEN

# *About the Spotlight Restart Series*

The Spotlight Restart Series is a four-issue attempt to revive Hollywood Lutheran Church's newsletter, running from October to December. The Spotlight newsletter can only restart with your contributions of articles, stories, pictures, poems and etc. Don't be shy. We are all working together to ensure our newsletter can be sustained. Please submit complete items before the 28th of each month to [pastorjosephccc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjosephccc@gmail.com)

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## *A Letter from the Pastor*

Beloved Community,

All God's love to you; my prayers with you; and all praise to God for blessing our community.

In the blink of an eye, summer is over and October is here again. This year October is special because it marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. All month long there will be celebrations, a lot of food, and traditional music. It's easy to get caught up in the activity, but taking a moment to ask, 'what exactly are we celebrating' or 'what's all the fuss' is necessary.

As Lutherans, we celebrate the Reformation as a story and a marker that has positively changed the universal Christian Church. The story goes that on October 31 of 1517, Martin Luther, who was a German monk, bravely and boldly hammered the Ninety-Five Theses to the door of All Saints Church in Wittenberg, marking the beginning of a radical reformation of the church that ended corrupt institutional

practices of the church and expressed a more grace-centered theology. We rejoice in the contributions of Luther, such as making the Bible accessible to everyone, recognizing the efforts of all believers as essential to the church, celebrating communion with both bread and wine, and practicing a faith that finds our justification through faith alone, not our own efforts or works. We celebrate that God works wonder through complexly flawed and imperfect people, like Luther and other reformers. But we still ask "is that all we are celebrating" and "what is the fuss." Today, we are NOT only celebrating something that is frozen in history or on a page of a dusty book.

Rather, I believe we are ALSO celebrating that God will never let us or his church get stuck. I believe we are celebrating reformation as a gift from God, a gift of constant renewal and always being made new. I

believe we are celebrating a gift that allows us to see each day and moment as an opportunity to start over, end old practices that no longer have life or serve us, adapt so the church is aligned with the needs of all God's people, and begin new endeavors to bring the Gospel and Communion to the world.

I believe this is the big fuss. Knowing we can always be made new can change our lives. Every relationship can begin anew right now. Every church can be revitalized right now. Every bad habit can be broken. Every hope for the future can be made alive in the body of God's church. This is all true, but it is also very difficult. I think we are up for the challenge.

But how do we do this? Howard Thurman reflects on "how we can do this" by using Psalm 19 "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my

*"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14*

rock and my redeemer.”

Thurman argues that we are able to find new life each day by alternating our energy between two equal efforts: 1) withdrawing to meditate for clarity and an inner peace and 2) adventurous action in the world. He says that at times there is a great desert and a sea between these two and we can get stuck in only one. Thurman says, getting stuck in either meditation or action can become an attitude against new life. Life is found by flowing between the two. Withdrawing and participating. Walking forward and resting. We find new life in both practices together, like



breathe

breathing in and out. We breathe in by meditating and reflecting and breath out by taking considerate action. For in meditation, we restore our own spirit and clarify our own goals, but we find vitality in God in which we can find holy connection with others. For in acting, we build new life in our relationships, churches and world according to a divine blueprint that is eternal. By acting, we serve as witnesses who know that the new life we find in meditation is possible.

I believe that we celebrate reformation because in it we can

meditate on what new life is possible and take actions with faith that we change, relationships change, the church changes, and the world changes according to God’s love for the world and compassion for all people. Amen.

Have you been meditating without action? Have you been acting without meditation? How can we support each other in finding balance between the two?

God's Peace + Love to you,

Pastor Joseph

## Hollywood Lutheran Upcoming Calendar

### OASIS Concert Series

Nov 11 Khari Joyner, Cello @ 7PM

Nov 18 Donizetti's Anna Bolena @ 7PM

*Details [www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net](http://www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net)*

### Luke Bible Study

Tue. Oct 17 + 31, and Nov 7 @ 7PM

Fun study with Pastor Joseph

### Our Partner Happenings

Mt. Hollywood Oct 22 @ 7PM

Not Just Another Variety Show to benefit the community garden.

Starbuck Jazz Quartet Nov 2 @ 8PM

at the Smoke House restaurant in Burbank 4420 Lakeside Dr.

OASIS Goal- To connect to the joy of live music! Professional musicians perform without charge for the benefit of the whole community.

### Join the Choir

Thursdays @ 7pm

All are welcome!

Silverlake Children's Theater Group @

Fountain Theatre 5060 Fountain Ave

Blood Rare Three One-Act Mysteries

Nov. 17, 18, 19 & Dec. 1, 2, 3 @7PM



## *Riddle*

Contributed by Karla Richards

If you have a bee in your hand,  
what do you have in your eye?

Answer on last page.



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In September, Bill and Karla Richards visited with Kurt and Ursula and their grown children Orson and Kai. The Richards Family arrived with a bouquet to share, knowing it was Ursula's birthday.

The visit was wonderful and joyous. Ursula loved the flowers and the visit from her church family. Ursula asked about her dear friends at Hollywood Lutheran Church and was especially moved to hear about Ray Huff's solo in memory of the dear Susan Tapia.

They shared with us their anniversary photo taken in their backyard on August 28.

The people of Hollywood Lutheran Church were so pleased to have the good news and photo of our dear friends.

Congratulations to the Rheinfurths on 62 years of marriage. May God continue to bless them.

## *The Rheinfurths - 62nd Anniversary*



Contribute photos, paintings, poems, articles, events, and more to SPOTLIGHT by emailing [pastorjosephcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjosephcc@gmail.com) by the 28th.

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Poem Contributor  
Article Contributor  
Painting Contributor  
Photo Contributor  
Calendar Contributor  
Senior Editor  
Design Editor

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## Riddle Answer

You have beauty in your eye.  
(Beauty is in the eye of the bee holder.)

If you or anyone you should meet should have pastoral care needs, such as prayer before surgery, communion, or a home blessing please put them in contact with Pastor Joseph 805 908 5193 or [pastorjosephcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjosephcc@gmail.com)

# SPOTLIGHT

a publication of Hollywood Lutheran Church

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