



Christ • Community • Connect

Weekly Newsletter • December 5, 2019

Weekly Word • Jeremiah 31:3

New This Week



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Pacific Southwest District Board of Directors and Praesidium held regular meetings in September and November at the District offices. Click [here](#) for highlights from these meetings.

PSD PRESIDUM UPDATE - NEW REGION 1 VICE PRESIDENT

Rev. John Koczman recently took a call to serve Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School Beaverton, Oregon, vacating his position as PSD Region 1 Vice President. We give thanks for Rev. Koczman and the leadership he provided in our district, and pray God's blessings on his new ministry. Rev. Dr. S T Williams Jr., Senior Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Los Angeles will serve as the new Region 1 Vice President, completing the term of Rev. Koczman. Pastor Williams brings an important perspective to the Board of Directors as it pursues the District's renewed commitment to ministry in our urban areas.



Rev. Dr. Williams has preached Christ crucified across 5 countries: in humble huts, the U.S Pentagon, aboard US Navy Aircraft Carriers, inside mega-churches, beside the beds of the infirm and across the dinner table of his congregants. His journey brought him to St Paul in 2005 where he has been instrumental in encouraging a church-wide spirit of joy and outreach to the unserved, under-served and seekers of Los Angeles and beyond.

Rev. John Palka, Pastor at First Lutheran Church, Venice, CA, will serve as Circuit 6 Visitor in place of Rev. Dr. Williams.

ONE MINUTE: Christmas & Handel's Messiah

The "Messiah" and its "Hallelujah" chorus are forever linked to the Christmas season. Written by George Frideric Handel in 1741, and first performed in Dublin, Ireland in 1742, this oratorio in English became Handel's masterpiece in choral music.

Handel, a Lutheran, was born in Halle, Germany in the southern region of Saxony. He studied music in Germany, Italy, and England. He moved permanently to London in 1712 where he became famous for his operas, oratorios, anthems and organ concertos. But he is most famous today for his "Messiah" oratorio.

[Read Full Article](#)

ADVENT PRAYER CHALLENGE

25 Days of Prayer for the
Campus Mission Coalition
Click [here](#) to participate

THE GREATEST ANIMAL LOVER

Pastor Bo Brink's first book, *The Greatest Animal Lover*, is now available. The subtitle is *Our Special Bond with Them Originates in Him*. The power, speed, flight, beauty and tenderness of animals fascinate us. We cherish them, but our appreciation pales in comparison with the love and admiration of their Creator. In *The Greatest Animal Lover* we explore the following questions: How much does God love animals? How can we know? How does His love for animals help us understand our fascination with them? At the end of the book you will find six small group Bible studies about animals in the Bible! These can be a blessing for Christian book clubs and Bible studies through your church. Pastor Brink will be donating 25% of the profits of this book to his home church's world mission program. Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas has mission projects in Liberia, India and the Dominican Republic. Look for the book on [Amazon](#) and [Westbow Press](#).

BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS

You are invited to have breakfast with St. Nicholas at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Orange on **Sunday, December 8, 9:00 am—12:00 pm**. This is a free event for the whole family. Children and adults are welcome to bring a new or used pair of shoes to donate. Leave the shoes outside the worship area for St. Nicholas to fill with goodies. During the 9:30 and 11:00 am services, children will be excused for Kids Church to learn about St. Nicholas. Bring your cameras to take pictures with St. Nicholas and Baby Jesus. There will also be games, crafts and inflatables. Please let us know you are coming by clicking [here](#) to register.

SANTA AT THE OLU THRIFT STORE

The Orange Lutheran High School Thrift Store in Orange, CA is pleased to welcome Santa on **Friday, December 13 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**. Come visit with Santa, take pictures and get a candy cane. The OLU Thrift Store is located at 676 N. Tustin Street, Orange, CA.

BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY: CALLED. EQUIPPED. SENT.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Huntington Beach invites you to a Breakfast Bible Study on **Saturday, December 14** featuring Lou Marting of Lutheran Hour Ministries. A stark reality exists in the world today: billions of people live without the hope of Jesus Christ. Sadly, many have come to believe that they don't need God in their life or even think that He exists. Lutheran Hour Ministries is in a unique position to bring Christ to the nations with culturally relevant programs and projects that proclaim the Gospel to the unchurched. LHM cultivates relationships with those who have responded and facilitates extending those relationships to a welcoming Christian community. Breakfast starts at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall followed by the presentation at 9:00 am. RSVP to the Church office at 714-846-6330 or churchoffice@redeemer-lutheran.net.

CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER

The Grace Lutheran Church, Los Angeles Family invites you to purchase your Christmas tree from us, while helping us raise the funds to renovate our 115 year old church and school buildings. The lot, located at 936 W. Vernon Avenue, Los Angeles is open through Tuesday, December 24, Times: 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. More for information, contact Ronald Boyd at 213-359-5740.

PETAL PUSHERS BEHIND THE SCENES PARTY

Make plans to join us for the Petal Pushers® Behind the Scenes Party on **Monday, December 30**. As you smell the beautiful aroma of thousands of freshly cut roses, you will see first-hand the work of the Petal Pushers® on the 2020 Lutheran Hour Ministries float entitled Anchored in Jesus. This event provides attendees the opportunity to view the floats close up. A full meal is included with beverages and desserts. The party is a non-alcoholic event. Purchase tickets [here](#).

Christmas Concerts



CHRISTMAS AT THE NECHITA CENTER

Orange Lutheran High School presents Christmas at the Nechita Center: Love Came Down Choral and Dance Concert on **Sunday, December 8, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm**. Featuring: Honors Choir, Honors Women's Chorus, Concert Choir, Creative Worship, Bel Canto, Vocal Jazz, Advanced Dance, and Musical Theatre Dance. [Get Tickets Now!](#)

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach is pleased to present our 50th Candlelight Christmas Concert on **Sunday, December 8 at 1:30 pm, 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm**. Under the direction of Dr. Carol McDaniel, and with guest organist Robert Bottoms, over 300 musicians and choir members will glorify the newborn King! Please join us for this annual gift to our community. There is no charge to attend. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the music programs at Bethany.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Huntington Beach invites you to our 11th annual Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 pm**. This year our theme is "*Christmas is Coming: How Joyful It Will Be*" featuring anthems and Christmas songs performed by the Sanctuary Choir, Celebration Ringers, our children's ensemble, and the Seasoned Youth. Come join us as we proclaim our Savior's birth and get you ready for your Christmas celebration. Invite your friends and neighbors to attend this free concert. A legendary Christmas cookie reception follows in the Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Epiphany Lutheran Church, Chandler, AZ, invites you to join us for joyous Christmas tunes and beloved carols on **Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 pm**. This free concert will be performed by professional musicians from the Valley of the Sun directed by Dr. John Hwang, our pianist and organist. It's a wonderful time of the year to share God's love through music with family, friends and neighbors. Please join us!

"THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS" CONCERTS

St. John's Lutheran Church, Orange invites you to join us for: "The Sounds of Christmas" concerts on **Friday, December 13 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, December 14 at 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm**. The Jubilate Choir, St. John's adult choir of 75 voices, along with a festival orchestra will join in presenting the beautiful music of Christmas. St. John's handbell choir, the Cathedral Bells, will also present delightful arrangements as part of the program. There is no charge, but a freewill offering will be taken. Childcare is available for children under age 5. For more information, please call 714-288-4431.

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Faith Lutheran Church, Inglewood and The High Desert Lutheran Choral, featuring Ernie Perez, members of Faith Lutheran, and the Children's Choir invite you to join us for an afternoon of Christmas joy! Our second annual Hometown Christmas Concert will be held on **Saturday, December 14 at 3:00 pm**. For more information, please call 323-750-3552.

Previously Posted

HIGH SCHOOL DYG

Building on the LCMS Youth Gathering, under the theme of *Present to the End*, PSD Youth & Family Ministry is excited to announce the return of the High School District Youth Gathering (DYG).

Date: **January 24-26, 2020**

Location: DoubleTree – Palm Springs

Early Registration Deadline: December 9, 2019 - \$220

Late Registration Deadline: January 6, 2020 - \$270

Hotel Reservation Deadline: January 10, 2020 - \$149/room plus tax and \$10 daily resort fee

Go to psd-youthandfamily.org/hsdyg for information and the registration packet with promotional tools.

ANNUAL INTERIM MINISTRY RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE: Rev. Dr. Bruce Hartung to Speak at Three Rivers Retreat

Dr. Bruce Hartung will be the main retreat leader at the 24th Annual Interim Ministry Retreat at St. Anthony's Retreat Center in Three Rivers, California. The dates are **January 20-22, 2020**. The retreat was originally planned as continuing education for interim Pastor's many others have joined us for this educational experience, including circuit visitors, settled pastors and others interested in Interim Ministry. Complete information and registration will be forth coming, available on the PSD Website. But for now save these dates and consider joining a group of dedicated pastors who will gather to learn and to fellowship together.

UNDIE SUNDAY

Undie Sunday will be held on **February 9, 2020**. The California-Arizona-Nevada Collection Center of Orphan Grain Train and the PSD LWML ladies will be gathering new undies and socks for men, women, and children and the Zone LWML Presidents will be bringing them to their March District Board Meeting. Information is being mailed to each congregation in the PSD. Women's Ministries, please be on the lookout for this information which also can be found at psdlwml.com.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Our ministry to children and families is critical. Therefore the district will be hosting a conference with presenters focusing on the issues that matter most in this area of ministry. Join us **June 16-18, 2020** on the campus of Concordia University Irvine and hear from keynote speaker, David Kinnaman of the Barna Group and others on the theme of "Rally Together." For more information and to register click [here](#).

Contact Us

Subscribe to eNews: Keep up-to-date on happenings in the Pacific Southwest District as well as resources for congregations; installations and ordinations; and prayer requests.

Send an email to psdenews@psd-lcms.org with the words "subscribe" in the subject line.

Job Site: Access information on jobs available in PSD congregations and schools. The Job Site can be accessed on the PSD [website](#). Subscribe to bi-weekly email notification by sending an email to psdenews@psd-lcms.org noting "Job Site subscription" in the subject line.

Submit News, Information & Job Postings: Email psdenews@psd-lcms.org with the 'who, what, when, where, and why' of the news item or job posting. Items must be received by 2:00 pm Wednesday.

The Pacific Southwest District will NOT sell, give or otherwise transmit your email address for any reason other than its intended purpose.

Prayer & Praise

Prayer & Praise also includes information on Installations,
Ordinations, Retirements & Anniversaries

Submit Prayer Requests to Kelly DeJongh at
kelly.dejongh@psd-lcms.org

Continued Prayers

Rev. Edward Ambrose – vascular/orthopedic issues
Jo Ambrose – fighting bone cancer
Owen Arizmendi - battling Krabbe Leukodystrophy
Dora Collins - chronic pain due to auto-immune issues
Rev. Alfonso Conrado - dementia, paralysis and diabetes
Noah Gerdes - recovering from Valley Fever
Rev. Dave Gruenhagen - fighting cancer
David Hendry – suffering from dementia
Kim Ingwersen - battling ALS, recovering from injury
Rev. Ray Kibler – immunodeficiency disease and cancer
Jenny Lawson - fighting cancer
Marla Lichtsinn - fighting cancer
Rev. Johnny Lopez - fighting cancer
Rev. Harry Matelski - fighting agent orange diabetes
Susan Matelski - inoperable deteriorating spine
Rev. Dr. Herb Mueller - treatment for a brain tumor
Mark Nadeau - fighting cancer
Rev. Hal Teuscher – fighting cancer
Rev. Gary Trickey - fighting cancer