Pastor Letter **6-5-16**

16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ~ Ephesians 3:16-18

Greetings Church,

It is a time of transitions all around, I feel. Transitions as the school year ends, and summer break commences. Transitions in our church as we celebrate the Rev. Mark Ulrickson's retirement after 41 years in ministry, and as we welcome the Rev. Mark Sturgess, our appointed Lead Pastor. Transitions abound in our country's leadership too as we experience the volatility of the presidential campaign.

It is in times of deep transition such as we are undergoing as a church and in the world that I am needing to remind myself of my grounding in Christ, my grounding in God's love. For there are days right now when I find myself almost spinning with things to do, and a little nervous about what is coming next.

Rooting myself in Christ helps me to know that regardless of the amount or type of change that I am undergoing, God is with me. Jesus grounds me in God's love and there isn't now, nor will there ever be, anything that can change that. There is a larger narrative of love of which I am a part, to which I belong. And, change doesn't stop or alter that in any way.

In fact, in my more salient moments, I know in my heart that change and transition are inherent parts of that love, integral parts of God's story for me and for us. Our scripture testifies over and over again, that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church which listens, discerns and moves will change and grow. As our scripture also testifies, that which roots us in such change is not anything of this world, not anything of us ... but the way of the risen Christ, our Lord Jesus.

May we all be continually rooted in the boundless love of God as shared with us in the ways of the Christ.

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Melinda

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

Acolytes – Elise and Nate Noriega

Liturgist – Jane Barboza

Greeters – Betty Ku, Betty Reynolds, Becky Low

Ushers – Charlie Quaife, Lietta Wagner, Don Gross, Merlin Thimlar

Coffee Hour – Missions - Merlin Thimlar

Welcome Booth – Doris Trait

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The Chancel Flowers are the gift of: Angela Howard,
"Celebrating my only son's birthday today, Jonathon Howard!"

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Los Altos United Methodist Church
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Phone: 562-598-2451 Fax: 562-596-2843
Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-3:30 PM
Friday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Web site: www.losaltosumc.org
Email: office@losaltosumc.org

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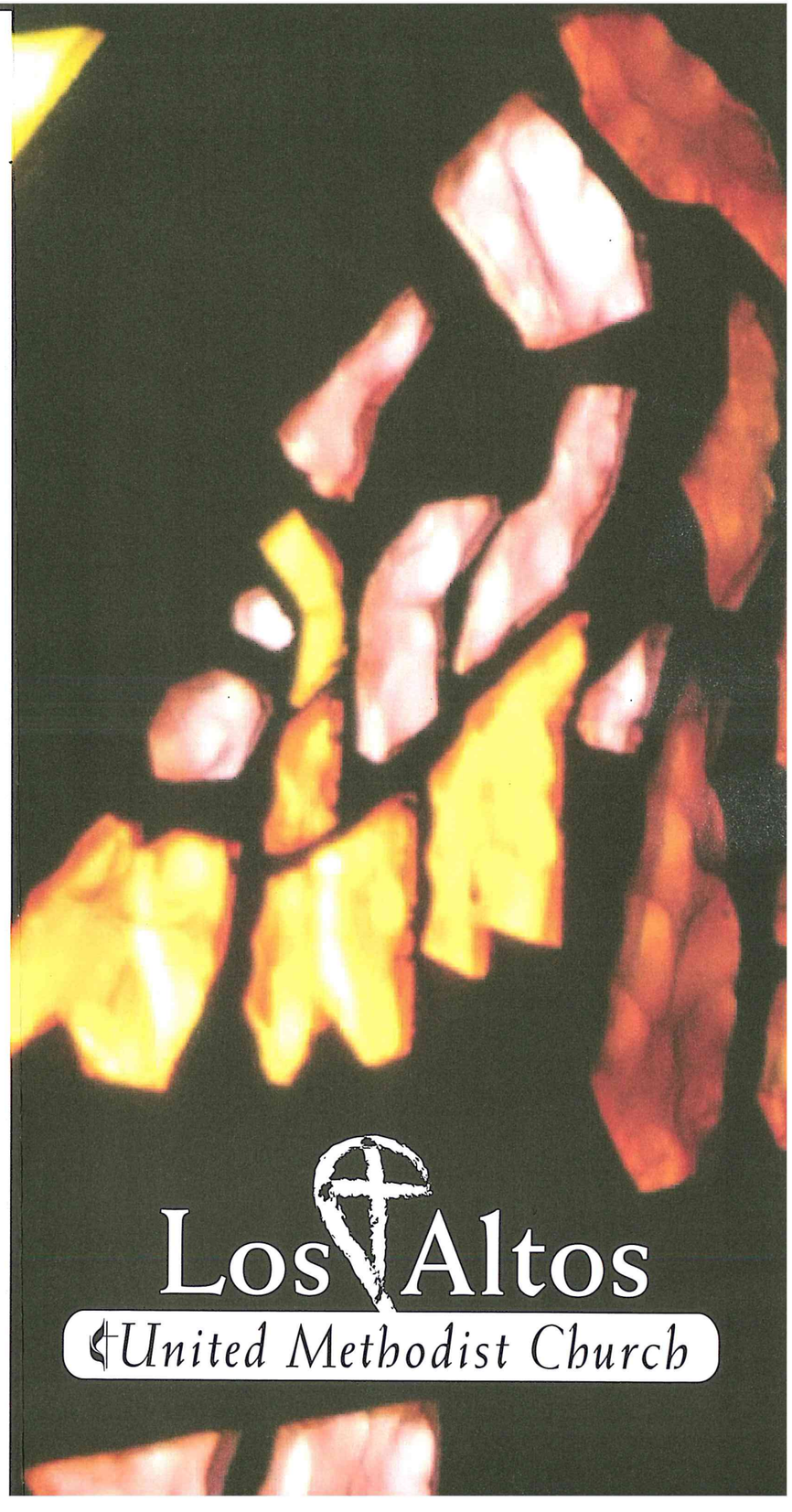
LAUMC MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop - Minerva Carcaño
District Superintendent - Kathey Wilborn
Lead Pastor - Mark Ulrickson
Pastor of Youth & Family – Melinda Teter Dodge
Pastor Emeritus - Ken McMillan
Church Administrator - Jennifer Garcia-Von Ranzow
Senior Ministries Administrator – Liz Lindley
Director of Music – Laura Harrison
Organist /Principal Pianist - Derek Gordon
Director of Handbells - Debbie Shaw
Worship Band Leader – Emilio Tello
Preschool Director - Wendy Allen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3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 5, 2016 11:00 AM

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude	"Marche Réligieuse"	Alexandre Guilmant
Introit	"Come Christians, Join to Sing" Sanctuary Choir	Dan Bird

* Opening Prayer

*Opening Hymn	"When in Our Music God Is Glorified"	#68 UMH vs. 1-3, 5

*Greeting One Another

Our Life Together

Celebrating our Musical Leaders

Prayer

Call to Prayer	"Beach Spring" Carillon Ringers	Jeffrey Honore

Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Anthem	"Alleluia" Sanctuary Choir	Randall Thompson
Scripture	Galatians 2:15-21	NT p. 188

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Special Music	"I Will Joyfully Sing" Bella Voce	Mary McDonald
Sermon	"Beginning and Ending in Grace"	Rev. Mark Ulrickson

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts, Our Bread and Our Cup

Offertory	"Kyrie"	Louis Vierne (from Messe Solennelle)
*Offering Hymn	"Grace Alone"	#2162 FWS
Great Thanksgiving Response	"Amen Siakudumisa " ("Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God")	#2067 FWS

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Great and mysterious God of creation... So, with all the company of heaven, we join their unending hymn;

All (singing): "Amen, si-a-ku-du-mi-sa. Amen, si-a-ku-du-mi-sa. Amen, bawo, Amen bawo. Amen, si-a-ku-du-mi-sa.

Pastor: You are holy, dear God,and blessed is Jesus Christ... And together we celebrate the mystery of grace:

All (singing): "Amen, si-a-ku-du-mi-sa. Amen, si-a-ku-du-mi-sa. Amen, bawo, Amen bawo. Amen, si-a-ku-du-mi-sa.

Pastor: Gracious and loving God, ... nourishing us with grace and equipping us to be the body of Christ in the world.

All (singing): "Amen, si-a-ku-du-mi-sa. Amen, si-a-ku-du-mi-sa. Amen, bawo, Amen bawo. Amen, si-a-ku-du-mi-sa.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Communion

Communion Songs	"Ave Verum"	W.A. Mozart
"Let Us Break Bread Together"		#618 UMH
"One Bread, One Body"		#620 UMH

SENDING

*Sending Hymn	"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"	#57 UMH vs. 1 solo, vs 2 choir, 3-5 All

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction	"A Prayer for Peace" Sanctuary Choir	Stanley M. Hoffman
Postlude	"Finale Maestoso"	Alexandre Guilmant

*** Indicates to stand if you are able.**

**** Welcome! We are glad you have joined us this morning. We invite you to prepare for worship by reviewing the guest card in the pew, silencing electronic devices, and, as needed, asking an usher about our assisted-listening devices.**