



Vol. 67 Issue 1, January 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I sit at my computer in my office at church, I am surprised by a visit from the 5-yr old Christ Lutheran Pre-School students coming to see me. They are a welcome interruption to the busy-ness of my morning! And their curious questions and wide-eyed looks remind me again that God surprises us by entering our lives in a baby, then young child, teenager and grown man. When I hear the sound of young children in worship, it reminds all of us that God meets us where we are – in human form – to reconcile us all to each other and to God!

This month as the echoes of Advent and Christmas fade into the manifestation of the Epiphany season, we will be reminded that the Light of God's Love is revealed to us in the Baptism of our Lord. We will once again be called to follow Jesus in His public ministry, sharing the good news that our identity is sealed forever. How is that good news? God re-names us all as "Beloved" in the waters of our baptism, marked by a love that will never end. And so re-named, and claimed, we are sent to share this love using our own unique gifts and talents.

Where is God calling you to share your unique gifts and talents? In your neighborhoods? Schools? Workplaces? In prayer? In service? In charity? Here at Christ Lutheran? As "Beloved" children of God, we are all gifted and sometimes others can see those gifts in us when we cannot. If you would like to explore where your "gifts" may be, I invite you to reach out to me or others in our community. Or you may be delightfully surprised when someone encourages you to participation, because they see a good fit for you!

Blessings to you,

Pastor Laurie Arroyo, Interim Pastor



Preschool News

November 30th was our annual Pajama Day event. We collected 60 pairs of pajamas and a lot of books. Claudia Fitzpatrick delivered them to Lutheran Social Services for them to pass out at their Community Christmas party. They were truly appreciative of our generosity. Thank you to everyone that participated and helped in making someone's Christmas special this year!

We had a special family outing on Dec 7th with a Christmas lights tour of Naples on the Big Red Bus. We had about 45 people attend. We started with cookies and cocoa at Glory Days and then the bus wouldn't start, so we boarded the Trolley instead. What a fun and unique way to get in the Christmas spirit!

Our annual Christmas program, "Who Is Coming to Our House" was on Friday, December 16th at 3:30pm in the sanctuary. This was our first time doing our indoor program in 3 years. Room 4 & 5 were our stable animals and Mary & Joseph, Room 3 were angels, Room 2 were little drummer boys & girls, Room 1 was the shepherd and sheep, and Room 6 was the star and "wise babies". We enjoyed cookies and cocoa in the courtyard following the program. It was great to be able to present this special event again.

We closed for winter break December 23rd through January 2nd. School resumed on January 3rd.

During January, the teachers will be working on student assessments, and we will begin planning for our Auction which will be on Friday, March 10, 2023.

Happy New Year!

Lisa Clinton



Saturday, January 14th
Sons of Norway will meet at noon. Everyone is welcome to come and learn about the Norwegian culture.

Thursday, January 12th
***OWLs (Obviously Wise Lutherans)** will meet at 12:00 noon in the Social Hall. Bring a side dish to share. *Note the name change from 'Older' to 'Obviously'.

Sunday, January 15th
2023 Budget Forum will be held after worship at 11am. Come to hear what the council will be proposing as our 2023 budget. This is the time to ask questions and discuss concerns. This will save time at the congregational meeting the following week.

Sunday, January 22nd
Annual Congregation Meeting
 Meet in the Social Hall at 11am following worship. We'll be voting on the 2023 budget and the new church council will be voted in.

Tuesday, January 31st
Daytimer's LunchBunch will meet at 11:30am at Hof's Hut on Bellflower Blvd in Los Altos.



Members at Home or in Care Centers: Justin Bartlow, Laurie Ennen,

Ione Marchael, Sydney Nichols, Don Westerhoff, and Frances Willms.

Those struggling with illness or other concerns:

Don Darnauer, Judy Haenn, Daniel Howard, Karen Koch, Sydney Nichols, , Stephanie Petrbock, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Doris Weinert, Kurt Weisel, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.

Family & Friends: Marylyn, Terry, Cheryl, Lois Brown, Zach Burkard, Byron, John Caldwell, Scott Carr, Mireya Cervantes, Jon Christopherson, Steve, Charlie and David Corm, Mary Croes, JD, Glenn Darnauer, Tamara Fitzgerald, Brechin Flournoy, Alberta Gray, Cindy Gray, Evie Holdhusen, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Ray Irwin, Doris Jung, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Sue Lance, Lenny Lloyd, Diana Lobel, Joyce, John McCarthy, Dewey Martin, Hudson Nunnally, Paula Pettit, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Emily Renton, Mary Kathryn Rivera, J.R. Rose, Vicki Thompson, Sharon and JT Tooman, Jessica, Steve and Jenny West.

We pray for the ongoing work of:

- + Christ Lutheran's Pastoral Call Committee
- + Linda Gawthorne among the Kogi people of Colombia
- + First responders who provide safety, security, and care
- + Those serving in our nation's Military, especially Samuel Brown, Ryan Dorris, Morgan Llewellyn, Johnny Luna, Jim Reeder, Steven, Brina and Michael Navarro.



1/2	Beverly Koenen
1/5	Bary Schlieder
1/7	Kristine Trost
1/9	Matt Green
1/15	Kimberley Smith
1/16	Linda McGee
1/18	Kathy Klute-Nelson
1/20	Marvin Moon
1/24	Rob Randig
1/27	Mark Ennen
1/27	Samia Hack
1/27	Garrett Latiolait



If you are a Ralph's Shopper, please add Christ Lutheran to the Community Programs partnership attached to your Ralph's card. We received donations totaling **\$365.98 from just 14 households this year.**

We also receive contributions from **Amazon Smile** if you designate Christ Lutheran as the charity of choice for eligible purchases. We have received **\$718.11 since we began participating in this program.** Thanks so much.



Direct your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars
Today!



Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit

organizations, including churches. CLC received **\$1876.00** this year. Thank you to church members who have selected CLC to receive these charitable gifts. Ask your Thrivent rep for details.

Christian Outreach in Action wants people to know homeless services improve life in urban areas



Christian Outreach in Action, located on the corner of Third Street and Linden Avenue, has the only public restroom accessible to the unhoused community in the area.

That may seem like a small resource, but Executive Director Dixie Dohrmann says it is just one way the nonprofit is trying to be good neighbors to residents of the community while serving the unhoused and impoverished as well.

COA has provided meals for those in need for over 40 years but their outreach programs offer more than just meals. The non-denominational nonprofit provides legal services, clothing, diapers, health screenings and more. Recently, residents in the community started a petition to have the organization removed from the area.

On episode #305 of "The Word" podcast, Dohrmann shares how COA is striving to improve life for everyone in the community, and how we all need to work to solve the homelessness issue.

Here's a message from former intern, Nati:

Hello CLC family! I hope everyone is well. This postcard shows the park in Kreuzberg—district of Berlin- where Florian and I like to roller skate. Since June, I'm working with youth 20 hours each week at a Lutheran congregation close to where we live:

Seydlitzstr.31b
72249 Berlin

I'm still studying for my master's degree in religious science. I don't know how you would call it, I'm sorry. I'm coming to California in August next year! Will see y'all at CLC!

Best ❤️ Nati



Christ Lutheran Church
6500 Stearns Street
Long Beach, CA 90815-3497

Return Service Requested



Mission Statement:
Christ Is Alive!

Vision Statement:
Christ Lutheran Church is a community of believers committed to praising our Savior Jesus Christ. With His love, we reach out to those in need and welcome all with open hearts. Our worship dynamically combines word, song and prayer to share God's incredible message. Having faith in this, we go forth knowing that with God and the power of the Holy Spirit, anything is possible.

February Newsletter Deadline:
January 15

Life In Christ
Is the newsletter of

Christ Lutheran Church
6500 Stearns Street
Long Beach, CA 90815-3497
562.598.2433
www.christlutheranlb.com

[email:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com)

Please join us in person for Sunday
Worship 9:30am
Live on FB or later on YouTube
Channel



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