



## Life in Christ, Vol. 68 Issue 7 July, 2024



Pastor Nikki is sharing this message to enlighten us on our place in the wide church community.

***From the desk of Bishop Brenda Bos of the Southwest California Synod to which we are part, one of 109 congregations, in her 2024 Bishop's Report for Synod Assembly***

***\*includes some slight edits for clarity and brevity***

I begin this report with praise and thanksgiving. As we move forward in a post-COVID world, many of our congregations are finding new life and new ministry. We have re-evaluated our congregational ministries. After making some difficult decisions about priority and possibility, I hear from many congregations who are welcoming new members, who are receiving generous donations and who are making real impact in their communities.

I celebrate with Community Lutheran Church in Los Angeles, who is now the home of the Compton Girls Club, with wellness, self-esteem and business programs offered once a month. I celebrate with Christ the King in Torrance, who was able to donate \$50,000 to the synod and Lutheran Social Services in honor of their pastor Dale Krumland's retirement. I celebrate with Johnel Barron, Amanda Berg, Natalie Larkin, Rebekah Nelson and Nichole Robson who were ordained into ministry since our last synod assembly. I celebrate the eight African descent leaders we were able to send to the ReClaim gathering in Minneapolis, where they met other African descent pastors and deacons and learned the unique joys and challenges of serving in the ELCA. I celebrate the inaugural preaching class with seven graduates of the SAM (Synodically Authorized Ministers) Academy- SAMs are lay people who have been trained and vetted and are licensed to preach and preside in congregations who cannot afford an ordained leader. Most synods throughout the ELCA employ SAMs and we are catching the wave. I celebrate the Senior Adult Ministry's widening impact in the synod. I celebrate hiring Fernando Russo as our Director of Finance and Administration and June Kline as our bookkeeper. I celebrate the many GROW meetings Lisa Higginbotham was able to conduct with congregations throughout the synod. [GROW is a lively conversation with participants thinking and talking about their hopes and dreams and realities in your church. She can help you figure out what's next and how to pay for it!] I celebrate rostered leaders Deacon David Webb and Pastor Christie Webb, who have transferred

to our synod. I celebrate your synod council, who bravely approved grants to new ministries and strengthened support to our strategic ministries.

I acknowledge not every congregation has been able to claim a new thing. I met with several congregations who have had to reduce their pastor from full-time to part-time. The pressures of life and ministry have manifested as conflict in some congregations. Pastors and deacons have retired early or left the synod for a more affordable locale. We have had to close a few church schools. Volunteers are tired, having to keep ministries going with no “new guard” of younger people coming in behind them. Some congregations had serious vandalism, fire or water damage, and have had to trust God to see them through.

...

In spite of our human concerns, God is calling us to a new thing, which is to realize our old ways of doing things are not applicable today. This is why so many synods have SAMs or other lay leaders rising up. I believe God is doing this, not to reduce the importance of our ordained ministers, but to invite more people to participate in ministry. In future years, we will offer more and more lay education offerings to empower more people to preach and teach and lead congregations. This is not new; this is how the church began, everyday people spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. We will hold to our Lutheran identity and maintain solid theology and worship standards. We will continue to seek out people to serve in ordained ministry, and we will invite more people to proclaim the gospel, through word and deed. I think it's very exciting. The gospel insists on being proclaimed, even as our models change.

Our synod is a leader in the ELCA when it comes to our diversity. We have more ethnic-specific ministries and leaders than most synods. Eighteen African descent leaders participated in affinity group events this year. Seven Latine pastors and congregations have inspired this synod assembly's teachings on immigration and welcome. Our Asian congregations are lifting up TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) candidates and welcoming newly arrived neighbors. Our advocacy for Lutheran resources has inspired Augsburg Fortress to publish more books in Mandarin. Our synodical leaders are invited to important national conversations about immigration, diversity, sexuality and Faith in Civic Life. Many of us attended the Lutheran Office of Public Policy Lobby Day in Sacramento in 2023 and 2024, speaking to our elected officials about upcoming legislation. Grace Lutheran in Bell is housing over forty refugees from Mauritania and other countries. Dozens of our young people will attend the 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We are premiering a new Pentecost liturgy, written by Paul Heatley of Hill Avenue Grace in Pasadena, at our worship service.

This is a complicated and beautiful time to serve in the church. This lines up with how complicated and beautiful it is to be a citizen of this planet and to live in the United States of America. Please join me in praising God for the opportunities and challenges we face, knowing God will be with us in every way.”



# Preschool News

In June we celebrated Father's day early on Friday, June 6 with Dads and Donuts. We enjoyed breakfast and activities that included making paper ties, a donut toss and donut memory game.

We ended another year of Growing in God's Love on Tuesday, June 18 with a special graduation ceremony for those going to Kindergarten and an End of Year Program for everyone. Our teachers then worked hard during our two staff work days to get everything cleaned and switched over for our summer session. Our "Summer of Habitats & Terrains" began on June 24th.

Our summer theme will be, "Habitats & Terrains". Our weekly themes will be: Jungle, Sky, Arctic, Desert, Ocean, Meadow, and Mountain. We will also participate in the Church Vacation Bible School the week of July 8th. Special Guests will include: Kona Ice, Reptile Show, Cabrillo Aquarium, Pony rides and petting zoo, and a Bounce House.

We will also have a Guest Reader each week to read to all of the children out on the playground. Parents as well as Church members are welcome to sign up to be a Guest Reader. We will continue having Chapel throughout the summer and will do it outside on the Labyrinth if weather permits.

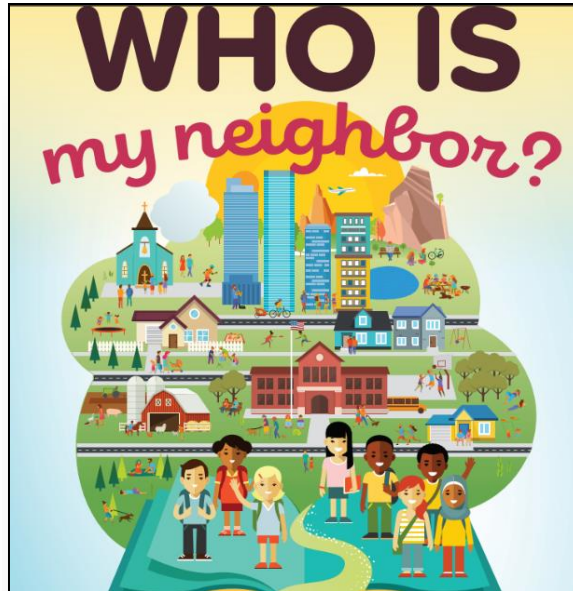
**Blessings for a beautiful month!**  
**Lisa Clinton**

## **Another word from Stewardship:**

Stewardship is not just about treasures; it is also about time and talent. If you have ever considered getting involved in one of the many ministries at Christ Lutheran, and don't have a lot of spare time, perhaps one of our featured ministries would be a good fit for you. Additional helping hands are always valued and appreciated.

### **Summer Music Ministry**

A message from Kim Philips—"It has been a blessing to work with the choir helping them prepare to sing for the congregation on Sundays, but summer's coming, and the choir will be on vacation. In the past, the congregation was invited to sign-up to share their talents during the summer. I have re-introduced that tradition! A signup sheet began circulating a couple of weeks ago and will continue until each date is filled. If you've signed up, we'll be reaching out to you to encourage you to get with Roger or Brad (based on accompaniment needs) and let you know where in the service you'll be performing. There is so much talent at Christ Lutheran and my hope is that you'll want to share it during the summer. Please contact Kim Philips at [kimsings@msn.com](mailto:kimsings@msn.com) if you would like to volunteer your talent.



## **Vacation Bible School**

**July 8-12, 2024**

**Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - Noon**

VBS is a time of worship, crafts, Bible Stories, fun, & games

For youth 4 yrs. - completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Youth volunteers (6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school)

welcome

**Cost: \$25 child, \$20 additional siblings**

This program is directed by members of Christ Lutheran Church

**Church office - 562.598.2433**



### Members at Home or in Care Centers:

Laurie Ennen, Ione Marchael, Sydney

Nichols, Bary & Janice Schlieder, and Frances Willms.

### Those struggling with illness or other concerns:

Don Darnauer, Judy Haenn, Daniel Howard, Shannon Howard, Chris and Sheryl Hunter, Chris and Kathy Klute-Nelson, Karen Koch, Jeff Rodrigues, Kristine Trost, Kurt Weisel, Rich Williams, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.

**\*Family & Friends:** Barbara, Noah, Carolina, Sherri and Bob Anderson, Lois Brown, Jeff Chan, Charlie and David Corm, Mary Croes, Denise Davis, Brechin Flournoy, Tamra Fitzgerald, Audrey Hill, Cindy Gray, Jerry Green, Susan, Ted, Mark, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Bryan Koenen, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Sue Lance, Austin and Zoe Marsh, Eric, Tim & Mimi Philips, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Sharry Reed, Debra Sarvela, Marlene Shafer, Vicki Thompson, Kathy Vonbuskirk, Jessica West, Marilyn Winebarger, Doris, Marc, and Adrianna Wurzel.

### We pray for the ongoing work of:

+ 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.



7/10 Jeanne and Phil Peterson  
7/18 Ann and Rich Williams  
7/28 Rebecca and Matt Green



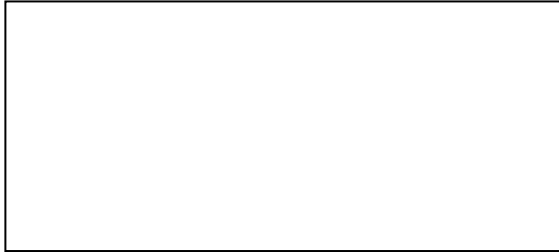
7/11 Noah Timney  
7/11 Matt Weisel  
7/12 Ben Elliott  
7/20 D'Jesus Trujillo  
7/29 Sydney Nichols  
7/30 Rebecca Green



...For your generous support of the  
PRE (Property Repair and  
Enhancement) Fundraiser to replace  
the HVAC unit in Room 3.

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

**Return Service Requested**



**Mission Statement**

Living by Christ's example,  
 we welcome, serve, and love  
 all through God's grace.

**Vision Statement**

Embracing the truth that God's love  
 and grace is for all, Christ  
 Lutheran Church is a vibrant  
 and active community spreading  
 the good news through acceptance,  
 action, and benevolence.

**Our Position**

Christ is ALIVE!

August Newsletter Deadline:  
 July 15

***Life In Christ***

Is the newsletter of

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**6500 Stearns Street**  
**Long Beach, CA 90815-3497**

562.598.2433

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**Please join us in person for Sunday**

**Worship 9:30am**

**Live on FB or later on our**

**YouTube Channel**



Be sure to LIKE us on Facebook.

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