



CHRIST LUTHERAN
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL
LONG BEACH, CA

Life in Christ, Vol. 68 Issue 8 **August, 2024**



Have you ever wondered how the Worship service gets put together? Well I can tell you that it is truly a work of the people- both logistically and in heart. There are so many who give of their time, talent and energy to create the worship environment and experience that we have on Sunday morning. (And there is always room for new faces so pay attention to how you might want to join in this collaborative work!)

Did you know? Our worship service touches a minimum of 10 sets of hands before Sunday morning's service.

Each season, liturgy is selected from Sundays and Seasons, a church resource that offers liturgy that follows the lectionary cycle (the 3-year order of rotational readings) and the seasons of the church.

Roger Halvorson and Kim Philips select our songs for Sunday and send them to Kim Croes.

I select the readings for each Sunday and send them to Kim Croes.

Rich Oelschlaeger prepares the Prayers of the Church.

Kim Croes takes all these pieces and puts them into the bulletin. Then she sends it off to Robin Black, Kim Philips, Roger and I to review and provide any edits or corrections. Kim makes any edits and once approved, she prints.

Each week, Robin Black, Beverly Koenen and Ruth Depuy serve as "Fluff and Folders" as they prepare the bulletins for Sunday with careful creases and strategically placed staples. Robin puts them in the Sanctuary for our ushers for Sunday morning.

Kim Croes uploads a PDF of the bulletin, announcements sheet, and children's bulletins to the website so that our online audience has access to these for worship.

Kim Philips handles the PowerPoint slides for Sunday morning. She selects seasonally appropriate graphics and translates all the spoken and sung pieces to the format that will appear on our screen in the Sanctuary and online to our live-stream audience.

Kim Philips then sends that off for review and edits to Robin, Kim Croes, and I. Once approved, Kim Philips sends it off to Brad Croes and Doug Holdhusen, the ones who make the live-stream happen and tend to the screen throughout the service.

Did you know? On Sunday morning, we generally have 5 staff participating in the service (myself, Roger, Kim P., Brad, and Kim C.). In addition to staff, there are at least 12 church members that provide leadership in the service (not counting folks that serve multiple roles in a morning). And that doesn't count when the Chancel Choir is singing, or we have additional musicians!

Think about it: Assisting Minister, Lector, Communion Assistants (3), Greeter (1-2), Coffee Cart, Altar Guild (2), Ushers (2-3), Sunday School (1-2), Healing Minister.

On my first few Sundays at Christ Lutheran, I was surprised by how many individual folks had to show up to make "church" go, to make worship happen. I was tempted to say, "Let's dial this back. Why have so many volunteers in one go?" But thankfully, I thought better of that. The more the merrier!

The phrase, "Many hands make light work," comes to mind. However, it's more than that. Each person who plays a role in Sunday morning is serving God. You are not just a placeholder or a spot filler, but you are a gifted child of God, serving out of your gifts for the betterment of this beloved community. Now I'm certain many of you would brush that off saying, "It's no big deal" or "It's just what you do." But I want you to know that we are grateful for your service and for the ways that you impact this community, whether big or small. And we're grateful for our God who gathers, enlightens and sends us out to serve here and beyond!

Lastly,

Did you know? We have a Worship & Music Committee who tends to the worship life of this congregation. They meet once a month and are led and organized by Robin Black. This Committee is made up of the following folks: Robin, myself, Roger, Brad, Kim P., Chris Caldwell, Doug Holdhusen, Mike Maricle, Linda McGee, Marvin Moon, Stephanie Petrbock, Lonnie Timney, and Shannon Timney. We are grateful for the ways that they tend to the details, troubleshoot thoughtfully, and creatively dream about what worship can be.



“We Are an Offering”

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

Lord use our lives they are Yours

We are an offering

And the truth is...without each of you, worship wouldn't go. In worship, we join our hearts and minds in praise and thanksgiving for our Creator, we ask for forgiveness, we confess our faith, we pass the peace, and we share in the Lord's supper. This is truly a work of the people.

Grateful to serve with you-

Pastor Nikki



Preschool News

Our summer session began on Monday, 6/24 and our summer theme is, "Habitats & Terrains". Our weekly themes are: Jungle, Sky, Arctic, Desert, Ocean, Meadow, and Mountain. Special Guests this summer include:

Kona Ice, Reptile Show, Cabrillo Aquarium, pony rides and petting zoo, and a Bounce House. We continue to have Chapel throughout the summer and do it outside on the Labyrinth. Pastor Nikki and Mrs. Fitz have been doing a great job at incorporating our weekly themes into Chapel!

Our summer Guest Readers each week has been a great success! Church members and parents volunteered to read to all of the children out on the playground each week in the morning and afternoon.

To celebrate the 4th of July, the children decorated their bikes at home and brought them to school to have a parade. Parents joined us for the fun and cheered on the children throughout the parade. We had rocket popsicles following the parade. We have also continued to have water days once a week. With the heat of the summer, this is always a favorite day for the children.

We participated in the Church Vacation Bible School the week of July 8th. The preschoolers really enjoyed going to the activity stations and the opening and closing sessions. Families were invited to the BBQ on Thursday to enjoy in a meal and fellowship as well as see the children perform the songs they'd learned throughout VBS. We had a great turnout!

We are full for fall with a waiting list. Our last day of summer will be on Friday, 8/16. We will be closed the following week for our staff work week to get everything cleaned and prepped for fall. Our Fall session will begin on Monday, 8/26/24.

Blessings for a beautiful month!
Lisa Clinton

From the desk of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us (Ephesians 2:14).

Just a few weeks ago in my June column for *Living Lutheran* I wrote, "I can't think of an election cycle more fraught and divisive than this one. People all across the political spectrum claim that life as we know it is on the line. It's not possible to agree to disagree—one must decide and put a stake in the ground. There is the potential for violence." That potential is now a reality after last weekend's shooting at a Trump campaign rally that killed Corey D. Comperatore and injured other attendees. I am thankful that former President Trump's injury was minor and pray for his recovery alongside those affected.

I also wrote, "But division and violence don't have to be our inevitable future." I believe this and that God calls this church to say a definitive "no" to political violence now and in the future. Political violence has a long history but no place in democracy. This church belongs to God, and our unity in Christ is a grace-filled and healing gift in a fractured society. As the ELCA we have theological and community resources to meet this moment through worship, discipleship and civic engagement.

In the face of violence, God's resolve for peace in human communities is unshakable. In proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ's forgiveness, healing and new life, the church addresses the ultimate root of violence. God calls us as church together in this moment to hear and embody this good news by embracing our identity as peacemakers through active civic engagement grounded in our baptismal identity and our institutional witness to foster justice, racial and social equity, reconciliation, and healing with compassion and imagination.

Last weekend's shooting has distressed and destabilized our nation. Political violence breeds fear and can set in motion cycles of violence that will further shatter us. Consider how, as individuals and communities in our life together, you will:

- Confess and confront the violent tendencies within ourselves and our society.
- Resist use of dehumanizing language about people with different political leanings.
- Build bridges of curiosity and compassion with people who think differently.
- Find ways to cultivate the practices of nonviolence in civic life.

Our inevitable future belongs to God. In this certainty and bound together in Christian hope, consider how you can join me in ongoing prayer and actions for our nation, a peaceful election season, the safety of candidates for office, and a bold and life-giving witness of our church in the time ahead.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
 Presiding Bishop
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A prayer from **Worship Resources for a National Election**

Holy God, out of your great love for the world, your Word became flesh to live among us and to reconcile us to you and to one another. Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit that we might live as one new humanity in Christ, dismantling the walls that divide, ending the hostility between us, and proclaiming peace to those who are near and to those who are far away; through Christ Jesus, in whom we all have access, in the one Spirit to you, both now and forever. Amen.

(Holden Prayer around the Cross, p. 132-33)

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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.

Usher Teams: Have you ever thought as you enter church, 'what is an usher'? The definition is 'a member of the congregation who greets you, answers questions you or a guest may have, ensures the sanctuary is ready for worship, collects the offering and ushers for communion. Don't forget, plugging in the coffee could be said by many a very important job! There are more duties behind the scenes, but all very easy. Are you interested in joining this great group of people? Ask an usher, "where do I sign up? We can always use a few more hands to help.



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, 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, Eric, Tim & Mimi Philips, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Sharry Reed, Sandra Reyes, Debra and David 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.

- + We remember our unhoused neighbors, who find themselves without shelter and a place to call home. We pray for their safety, health, and wellness. We commit to treating them with compassion and working to combat systemic issues that leave our neighbors in need.



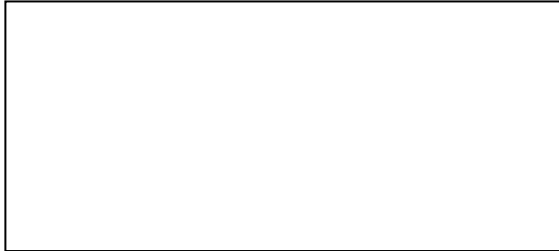
- 8/2 Shannon & Steve Howard
- 8/7 Robin & Dave Black
- 8/9 Shannon & Matthew Timney
- 8/20 Sheryl & Chris Hunter



- 8/6 Aidan Jenkins
- 8/7 Nicholas Flournoy
- 8/9 Meghan (Randig) Huff
- 8/9 Shannon Timney
- 8/15 Bryce Bonilla-Haenn
- 8/15 Elise Joubert-Honacki
- 8/16 Ione Marchael
- 8/18 Gale Musselman
- 8/24 Brad Croes
- 8/24 Ben Koch

Christ Lutheran Church
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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!

September Newsletter Deadline:
August 15

Life In Christ

Is the newsletter of

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



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