



**CHRIST LUTHERAN**  
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL  
LONG BEACH, CA

## Life in Christ, Vol. 68 Issue 9 September, 2024



*“Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ... Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar (the emperor) or not?” (Matthew 22:15-17). We know the answer. Jesus told them: “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (vs. 21).*

This passage has been used to inform the relationship between the institutions of the state and the community of faith. In this relationship the authority of the state is real and respected—but limited. God’s authority is acknowledged as ultimate and deserving of ultimate devotion and obedience, yet it doesn’t necessitate withdrawal from or opposition to participation in civic life and its responsibilities. We Lutherans call this the doctrine of two kingdoms, and we understand that the church and the state, the spiritual and the temporal, are *both* established by God and are *both* part of God’s twofold rule. Both church and state are good gifts from God.

Lutherans have been accused of congenital quietism. Our understanding of God’s twofold rule and even the story about paying taxes in Matthew have been used to discourage participation in civic life. However, active participation in public life has been part of the Lutheran movement from its beginning. **Lutherans don’t withdraw from public life.** In fact, the ELCA’s constitution pledges us to “work with civil authorities in areas of mutual endeavor, maintaining institutional separation of church and state in a relation of functional interaction.”

...Dear church, our citizenship is ultimately in heaven. But we are also citizens of this country—this flawed, fractious, unequal, imperfect union. In U.S. political history, people have yearned and given their lives for what they had hoped for—democratic life for the sake of the flourishing of all. One of the ways we serve our neighbor is to participate in civic life. Can we see Election Day as a unifying event when the whole country goes to the polls?

Vote.

From the desk of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton  
Living Lutheran’s “We Are Also Citizens”  
\*emphasis added

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is currently reviewing a draft social statement on Civic Life and Faith. What is a social statement?

*“Social statements are the ELCA’s primary documents to address significant social issues.*

*They are intended to aid reflection, shape conscience and set forth the ELCA’s teaching and policy on the major social issues and questions of contemporary life.”*

We currently have 13 social statements listed on the ELCA webpage on a variety of topics like Abortion, The Church and Criminal Justice, and Health & Health Care. (Fun Fact: Our Education Committee is hosting a 5-week study on our ELCA Social Statement on Peace in the months of November and December this year. Watch for the schedule soon!)

For the statement on Civic Life and Faith, the task force is currently receiving feedback on the draft statement in the hopes that an updated version will be considered for adoption at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. The draft statement can be found here: <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Civic-Life-and-Faith>. The feedback period is open until September 30, 2024 so there’s still time to add your two cents.

From the draft statement...

*Article 16) The ELCA encourages individuals and worshipping communities to work together toward a civic life that better reflects God's vision for a more just and reconciled world. The various forms of advocacy offer ways to press civic leaders and public policy makers to respect the needs and dignity of all persons and our common home, with special concern for the vulnerable. Such faith-rooted advocacy is born from relationships of service and solidarity, is guided by ELCA social teaching, and requires different practices in different contexts.*



In this election year, we want to encourage you as a person of faith to engage in public life. Let your faith inform and influence your decisions at the polls. Let your voice be heard.

Our Church in Society committee, comprised of Claudia Fitzpatrick, Shannon Howard, Andrea Joseph, and Ron Nelson, has free #ELCAvotes pins for anyone who'd like to sport one this season.

Here's more info from ELCAvotes.

### **ELCAvotes**

**We are called to conversation and prayer around our role as U.S. residents and as people of faith in ensuring our election systems promote dignity and respect for all.**

**We are called to act by speaking out as advocates and engaging in local efforts to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens.**

**ELCAvotes is an initiative:**

- expanding the role of the church in encouraging faithful and nonpartisan voter participation by providing faith-based resources around voting
- providing a framework for all Lutherans to understand and speak out about the intersection of voting and elections and racial, gender and economic justice
- amplifying the voices of young-adult leaders in the church and providing a platform for young adults to explore what it means to be a civically engaged person of faith
- engaging with and equipping ethnic communities to talk about voting rights and race and their connection with elections today

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/ELCAVotes>

We're committed as a community to helping to "[provide] faith-based resources around voting." Thanks to our Education Committee for offering this opportunity!

**Save the Date:** Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, following worship

[ELCA & Its Policies in Connection with Propositions](#)

The class will be led by Ron Nelson and will be informed by resources from Lutheran Office of Public Policy- California.

Engage!-

Pastor Nikki



## Preschool News

Our "Habitats & Terrains" summer session was lots of fun! Our weekly themes were: Jungle, Sky, Arctic, Desert, Ocean, Meadow, and Mountain. Special Guests this summer included: 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 did a great job at incorporating our weekly themes into Chapel! Church members and parents volunteered to read to all of the children out on the playground each week in the morning and afternoon. We also had so much fun participating in the Vacation Bible School week with a great turnout for the BBQ that Thursday.

We had a new student orientation on Wednesday, August 7 from 3:30-4:30pm. We had about 15 new students come for orientation. We started off in the Social Hall for introductions, toured the school, then went on the playground to play and meet the teachers. Our end of summer celebration was on Friday, 8/16 and included a bounce house and school closed at 12:30pm. We closed 8/19-8/23 for our staff work week to get everything cleaned and prepped for fall. We also remodeled the boys and girls bathrooms during this week. We had a parent work day on Sun 8/18 to get a jump start on some of the campus cleaning.

Our 2024-2025 school year began on August 26th. Our teachers will be installed on Sunday, 9/22. Our staffing for fall will be Ms. Zacadula in Room 1, Ms. Nielsen and Mrs. Murray in Room 2, Ms. Gonzalez and Mrs. Forkan in Room 3, Mrs. Rojas in Room 4, Ms. Fitzpatrick in Room 5, Ms. Villanueva in Room 6, Mrs. Palley for our Afternoon Teacher, Ms. Scott as our Afternoon Floater, and Ms. Theriault as our Asst. Dir. We will spend the month getting to know all of our new families and getting to know our current families even better. Back to School night will be Monday, 9/9 at 6:30pm.

We wish all of our graduates going on to Kindergarten success and look forward to welcoming our new and continuing students to another year of growing in God's Love at CLP.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Clinton

# Rich's Knit Caps

Rich Oelschlaeger is an avid knitter. He makes knit caps that Christ Lutheran donates to a variety of organizations including:

- Lutheran Social Services (LSS)
- Lutheran Maritime Ministry
- Christian Outreach in Action (COA)
- Orange Coast Memorial Cancer Center
- Forest Falls Community Closet
- Forestville Elementary School Closet



But Rich (and CLC!) need your help. The caps are gorgeous, brightly colored, and most important of all, warm! But they aren't quite finished. Each need a few minutes of attention to finish them off. And by "them," we mean a few hundred. Yes, you read that right.

For our upcoming service day, "God's Work, Our Hands," Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, Shannon Howard will be on hand to teach anyone with willing hands and hearts how to finish a cap. It's easy and we're confident you'll catch on quick!



If you're not able to help on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, you can drop by the church office in the Conference Room to work on some there or to pack a bag to bring home.

**It's going to take a concerted effort on all our parts to outwork Rich and his nimble knitting fingers.**

**Are you up to the challenge, Christ Lutheran?**



### **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.

The goals of the **Connections committee** are to promote people-to-people ministries; to provide and support opportunities for members to "connect" with others in the Church community. Some of the ways of doing this include: 1) Prayer Chains 2) Meal Ministry 3) Sunday morning coffee fellowship 4) Nursery Care 5) Funeral Support 6) Church-wide Social events 7) Support for activities and events of other ministries within the church and 8) represent the Kitchen Committee on Council. If you would like to participate in any of these activities within the church, please contact Lisa Cottrell.

Thank  
you  
so much



We owe our Christ Lutheran Preschool a BIG THANK YOU!!! This week they are funding a complete remodel of the men's (boy's) and women's (girl's) bathrooms in the breezeway AND they are purchasing a BRAND NEW STOVE for our kitchen! What wonderful news! Not only do they provide us with beautiful smiles and melodies each time the Music Makers join us for worship, but they also provide gifts to this congregation by upgrading our campus facility! Please join your Church Council in saying THANK YOU to the Pre School Board and our Director, Lisa Clinton.



*Sunday, Sept. 1*

*Wednesday, Sept. 4*

*Sunday, Sept. 8*

*Thursday, Sept. 12*

*Sunday, Sept. 15*

*Sunday, Sept. 22*

*Sunday, Sept. 29*

*@ 11am Worship & Music meeting*

*@ 5pm Property committee meeting*

*New member welcome and*

*God's Work. Our Hands. following worship*

*@ noon OWLs lunch and fellowship*

*Following worship - Congregation Meeting*

*Teacher Blessing, Sunday School Kick Off*

*@11am Worship & Music meeting*



# Adult Education Schedule

## Fall 2024

1. Sunday, August 25 – Mindfulness and Meditation by Shannon Howard in the Founder's Lounge
2. Sunday, September 22 – Spirituality and Aging by Don Koepke in Conference Room
3. Sunday, September 29 - Spirituality and Aging by Don Koepke in Conference Room
4. Sunday, October 6 - ELCA & Its Policies in Connection with Propositions by Ron Nelson in Conference Room
5. Sunday, October 13 – Plants in the Bible by Laura Innes in the Conference Room
6. Sunday, October 20 – Health Benefits of Sprouting the Mustard Seed and Other Plants by Deb Albrecht in the Social Hall



## A 10-Session Study by Jen Wilkin

Join us for this study of Exodus 19-40 to revisit the familiar scenes of the giving of the Ten Commandments, the idolatrous worship of a golden calf, and the intricate details of the tabernacle. With fresh perspective, we'll learn to trace the promise of Christ throughout and ask what these stories teach us today about how to live as those set free.

### *CLC Women's Bible Study*

WEDNESDAYS • SEPTEMBER 11 – NOVEMBER 18  
6:00 – 8:00 PM

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH • FOUNDER'S ROOM (LOUNGE)  
6500 Stearns Street, Long Beach

Contact: Shannon Timney • 562.209.5699



### 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, Sheryl Hunter, Chris and Kathy Klute-Nelson, Karen Koch, Kristine Trost, Rich Williams, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.

**\*Family & Friends:** Barbara, Noah, Carolina, Bob Anderson, Lois Brown, Jeff Chan, Charlie and David Corm, Mary Croes, Denise Davis, Jessica, Tamra Fitzgerald, Zoey, Brechin Flournoy, Cindy Gray, Susan, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Bryan Koenen, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Sue Lance, Cameron, Tim & Mimi Philips, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Sharry Reed, Sandra Reyes, David & 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, Austin Marsh, 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.



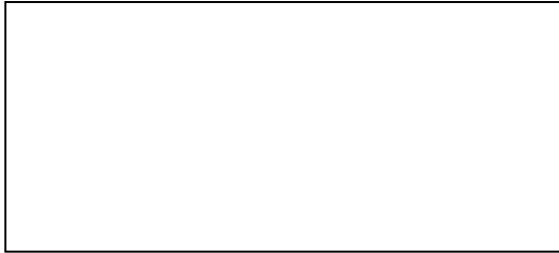
- 9/10 Kim and Frank Croes
- 9/19 Barbi and Don Darnauer
- 9/27 Laurel & Adam Elliott
- 9/28 Claire and Glenn Hoxie



- 9/6 Nicholas Jenkins
- 9/6 Annie Johnson
- 9/12 Nathan Latiolait
- 9/14 Hannah Rodrigues
- 9/18 Don Darnauer
- 9/18 Emily Randig
- 9/21 Jonah Koch
- 9/22 Arielle Joubert-Honacki
- 9/23 Chantal Joubert-Honacki
- 9/25 Kameko Flournoy
- 9/25 Kathy Treat
- 9/26 Jax Johnson
- 9/28 Linda Peralta
- 9/29 Samantha McGee
- 9/30 Matthew Timney

**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!

October Newsletter Deadline:  
 September 15

***Life In Christ***

Is the newsletter of

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
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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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