



CHRIST LUTHERAN
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL
LONG BEACH, CA

Life in Christ, Vol. 69 Issue 2 **February, 2025**



As I write this month's newsletter article, southern California, namely Los Angeles, is currently on fire. With the onslaught of Santa Ana winds, the fires have been extremely destructive, reporting at this time- 38,000+ acres burned, 12,000+ structures destroyed, 180,000+ people displaced. It has been quite a few days of watching, praying, waiting, preparing, checking in on one another, and repeat for so many.

As you read this, I pray that the fires have long been extinguished, that firefighters and first responders have long returned home and are getting some well-deserved rest, and that the affected communities are in the process of repairing, rebuilding, and restoring. But I also pray that it hasn't been so long that we've forgotten what it felt like to be in the midst of this emergency.

Let us not forget. Long after the news cycle has turned, where most of us on the periphery have returned to business as usual, help us to remember our neighbors and the great destruction, heartache, and loss they have experienced. Help us to continue to pray, check in and offer resources. Help us to remember the road to recovery is a long one and to continue to seek out ways to offer mutual aid. Help us to stay vigilant in our commitment to care.

God's Peace- Pastor Nikki

From the desk of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

January 9, 2025

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” (Isaiah 43:2).

Dear church,

The images of leaping flames, smoke-choked skies, and the wreckage of homes and habitats in and around Los Angeles are hard to bear. The ongoing, deadly California wildfires have claimed lives, displaced hundreds of thousands of people, and destroyed homes, businesses, schools and houses of worship. The devastation continues as winds spread the flames. So far we know that Bishop Brenda Bos of the Southwest California Synod and her wife, Janis, lost their home in the Eaton fire. We believe that the fires have touched the lives of many more ELCA members and several congregations as the synod continues to receive damage reports and assess the immediate needs for support.

The prophet Isaiah writes that even when fires rage, the final word is faith, not fear. God redeems us and calls us by name to be agents of healing and hope, even amid staggering loss. In faith, we respond through prayer, accompaniment and action.

Please join me in praying that God’s love and care be manifest among all who are impacted by these wildfires. Pray for the firefighters battling unrelenting blazes and for first responders, health care providers and public servants providing safety and support for those impacted. Pray for ELCA ministries as they care for the many needs of their communities. Pray for the long-term well-being of all who are affected by the widespread devastation and who face ongoing danger.

Learn how your church is responding and how you can get involved.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Preschool News

Our annual Christmas program, "Who Is Coming to Our House" was on Friday, December 20th at 3:30pm in the sanctuary. The children did an amazing job and the parents loved the program. We enjoyed cookies and cocoa in the courtyard following the program.



We closed for winter break December 20 through January 1st. School resumed on January 2nd.



During January, we had a special snow day with a 20x20 foot area of "snow" from Long Beach Ice Company. This is always such a special day for the children. Parents joined us for the fun and we served hot cocoa after the snow play.

We also began planning for our Auction which will be on Friday, 3/14/25. The theme for this year will be "Enchantment Under the Sea." We sent out donation requests and began planning decor and games. Tickets will go on sale 2/2/2025. Church members are welcomed and encouraged to attend the event.



In February we will host Special Person Day, celebrate Valentine's Day in the classrooms and continue working on the Auction.

Wishing you all a blessed month ahead,
Rachyl Theriault

2025 Christ Lutheran Church Council

****President**

****President-Elect**

****Recording Secretary**

****Treasurer**

Treasurer-Elect

Administration & Planning

Adult Education

Church in Society

Connections

Outreach

Property

Stewardship

Youth

Youth Education

Worship & Music

Rebecca Green

Bryce Bonilla-Haenn

Ingrid Fuelleman-Ramos

Matthew Timney

OPEN

Kim Magee

Deb Albrecht

Claudia Fitzpatrick

Lisa Cottrell

OPEN

Greg Koch

Stephanie Petrbok

Kameko Flournoy

OPEN

Robin Black

Thank you to those members who are continuing in their regular term, those who 're-upped' for a second term, and those who have joined council this year. Your work is essential to the successful ministry of Christ Lutheran and you are so appreciated!

****Comprise the Executive Committee**

If you are interested in learning more about the open positions, please reach out to Rebecca Green.

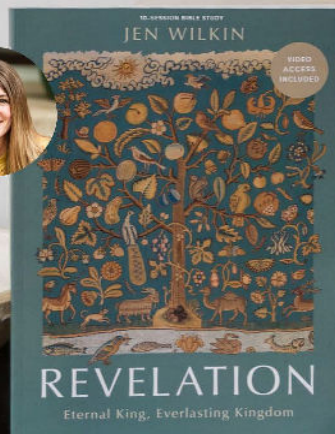
You can understand every book of the Bible. Even this one.

Join us for our next Bible study!

In this 10-session study on Revelation, discover how the last book of the Bible—the culmination of God's great story—speaks both a steadying word of assurance and a strong call to endure to the church in every age

Meeting on Wednesdays at 6 PM
February 5 - April 16 *no meeting on 3/5*
Christ Lutheran Church, Long Beach
in the Founder's Room

For more information contact
Shannon Timney
(562)598-2433 *church office*



Lifeway.women



Sunday Classes for January and February

Class Title: Lutheran Liturgy

Instructor: Don Koepke

Day: Sunday, January 26 and Sunday, February 2

Description: Have you been a life-long Lutheran and have never explored why our form of worship is what it is? Does our outline of worship have a desired outcome? Where does our structure of worship come from? Join us when (Pastor) Don Koepke explores WORSHIP 101.

Materials Needed: None

Meeting Place: Conference Room

Class Title: Happy Hour Basic

Watercolor Painting Class

Instructor: Deb Albrecht

Day: Every other Friday from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, Fridays 1/31, 2/14, 2/28, 3/14, and 3/28

Description: Learn the basics of watercolor painting and produce cards for the Christ Lutheran shut ins and other paintings for enjoyment.

Materials Needed: Bring what watercolors you already have. If you don't have any, I will supply you for the first class. Since it is Happy Hour, please bring an appetizer to share and your own beverages.

Meeting Place: Kitchen and Social Hall

Class Title: Tailgate Cooking Class for Super Bowl

Instructor: Frank Croes

Day: Sunday, February 9

Description: Need that perfect snack or appetizer for your Super Bowl Party? Come join Frank Croes after church for the help in creating it.

Materials Needed: Recipe, crock pot, ingredients for recipe, and utensils

Meeting Place: Kitchen and Social Hall

Class Title: "A Time for Burning" Film and Discussion

Instructor: Pastor Nikki

Day: Sunday, February 23 and Sunday, March 2

Description: On Sunday, 2/23, we'll watch together "A Time for Burning," a classic, hour-long film about one Lutheran pastor and his congregation's efforts to bridge the racial divide in their community in the 1960s.

Come back the following Sunday, 3/2, for a thoughtful discussion on how this film might speak into our world today.

Materials Needed: None

Meeting Place: Conference Room



The Synods of Region 2

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Faithfulness in our time

A Christmas message from the

ELCA bishops and synod vice-presidents of Region 2

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 when the star in the sky is gone,
 when the kings and princes are home,
 when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
 the work of Christmas begins:
 to find the lost,
 to heal the broken,
 to feed the hungry,
 to release the prisoner,
 to rebuild the nations,
 to bring peace among the people,
 to make music in the heart.

*“The Work of Christmas,” from Howard Thurman’s
 The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*

Dear friends in Christ,

In this Christmas season, we pray that you and your loved ones have found moments of true joy and peace in your celebrations. As the world prepares to greet a new year, we also turn to the days ahead in deep prayer and honest pondering. What will this time bring to our neighbors and communities, to our families and our own lives? What will it mean to be the church and engage in the “work of Christmas” now, in the places where we are?

As bishops and elected leaders, we represent more than 500 Lutheran congregations and ministries in Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. The people of our synods live in cities and small

towns, near mountain ranges and ocean tides, in deserts and on prairies. We speak many different languages and carry many different stories; and we are all part of the same body of Christ.

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we also share a common theological identity, as people who place our faith and trust in the grace offered freely to all people in Jesus Christ by the God who so loved the world that God become incarnate: sharing our humanity, standing in solidarity with the suffering and oppressed on the cross, and defeating all the powers of sin and death in his resurrection. The identity we share influences our approach to the secular world. In the words of the ELCA's social statement *The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*, "Social structures and processes combine life-giving and life-destroying dynamics in complex mixtures and in varying degrees. This church, therefore, must unite realism and vision, wisdom and courage, in its social responsibility. It needs constantly to discern when to support and when to confront society's cultural patterns, values, and powers."

As Lutheran followers of Jesus, we are concerned for many of our members and neighbors in our communities, nation, and around the world, who are experiencing a high degree of anxiety in these times, particularly those whose identities put them at risk or make them vulnerable as political targets. Knowing that our church includes people of every political affiliation, still as Christians we are called not simply to "agree to disagree"—but to seek, in faithful discernment, the guidance of the Holy Spirit in loving and serving God and our neighbor according to the example of Jesus. We do this as we gather to hear the Word proclaimed and share in the Sacraments; and we do this as we are sent out in service to use the gifts God has given us for the vocations to which God has called us: in our work, relationships, and communities. In all that we do—in worship and discipleship, in our striving to share and to be good news for our neighbors—we remember that we do not do this to earn or deserve God's love: it is already abundantly given to us and to all people. In our worst moments, we ask for forgiveness; and in humility we learn that God's grace remains. In our best moments, we rejoice; and we realize that it was not us alone, but God acting with and through us—grace upon grace.

As "the work of Christmas begins," We invite you to join us in participating in the liberating love of God for the world. Whether you are a long-time Lutheran, a first-time wonderer, or somewhere in between, you are welcome: to find life in the grace

of God that we receive in the sharing of the Word, the communion table, and the baptismal font; to find belonging in God’s love for you, no matter who or where you are; and to find spaces of spiritual practice and life-giving purpose that can ground you and draw out your gifts for the sake of others.

Our prayers for all the people of our synods, and for all our neighbors, are that we may come to more fully know, share, and embody the “good news of great joy for all people” that Jesus brings to our world. May this promised good news of justice, peace, and love truly come to all people in our time!

In Christ,

Bishop Deborah Hutterer
Grand Canyon Synod, ELCA

Barbara Carl, Vice President
Grand Canyon Synod, ELCA

Bishop Dave Nagler
Pacifica Synod, ELCA

Jeff Cours, Vice President
Pacifica Synod, ELCA

Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelabouni
Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Ruth Hoffman, Vice President
Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Bishop Jeff Johnson
Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA

Simon Wong, Vice President
Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA

Bishop Brenda Bos
Southwest California Synod, ELCA

Lisa Curtis, Vice President
Southwest California Synod, ELCA



Members at Home or in Care Centers: Laurie Ennen, Ione Marchael, Gale Mussleman, 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, Kristine Trost, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.

***Family & Friends:** Noah, Lois Brown, Elsie, Leah Bootman, Charlie and David Corm, Mary Croes, Denise Davis, Jimmy Ducione, Jessica, Clark Enebo, Tamra Fitzgerald, Brechin Flournoy, Cindy Gray, Shar Higa, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Bryan Koenen, Aaron, Kim & Sienna Koepke, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Carolyn Laitsch, Luke McCann, Farnaz Perl, Cameron, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Sharry Reed, Heather Robinson, Chris Sanderson, David Sarvela, Marlene Shafer, Laura Straus, Vicki Thompson, Kathy Vonbuskirk, Jessica West.

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 :

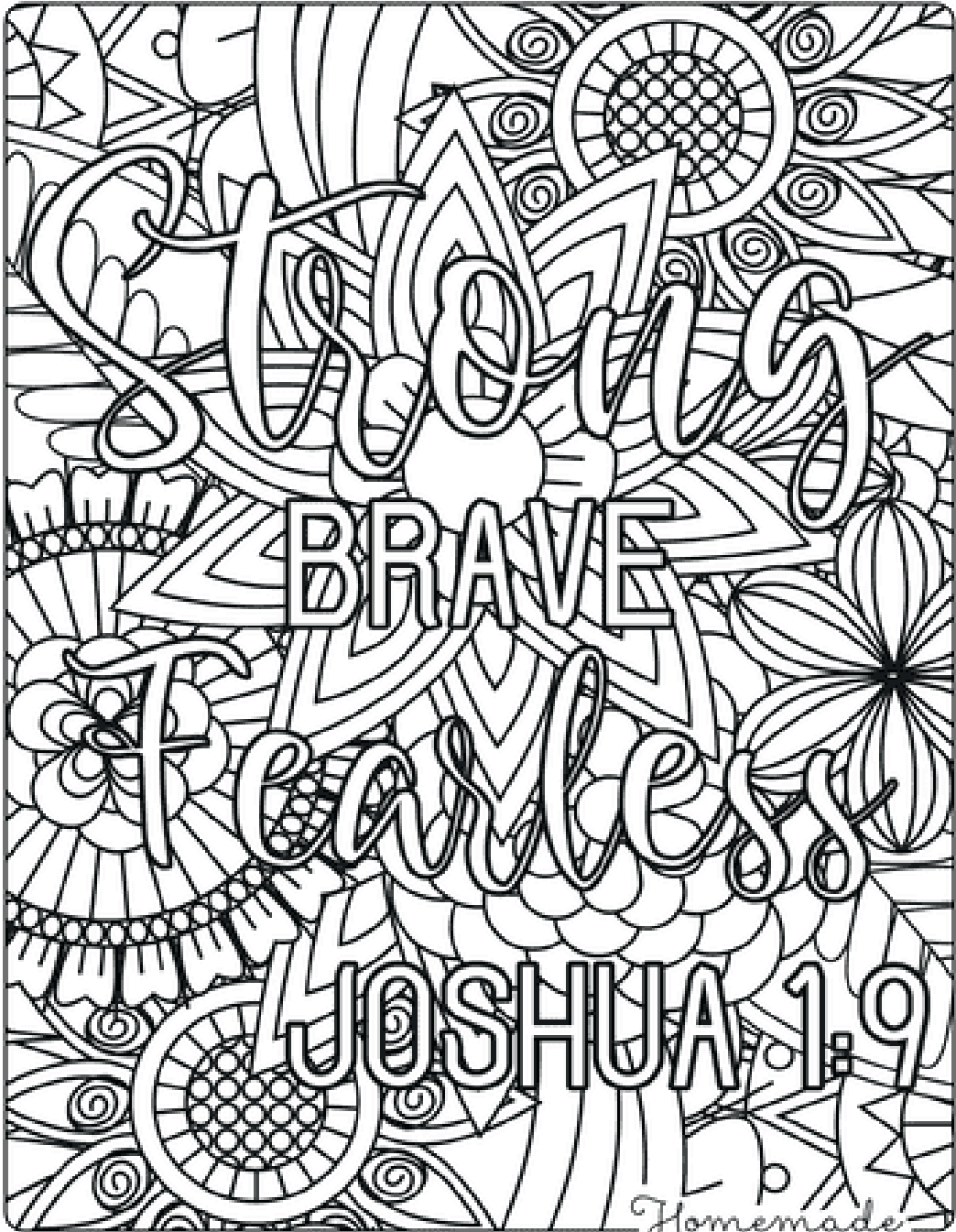
+Our unhoused neighbors, who find themselves without shelter and a place to call home. We pray for their safety, health, and wellness. We commit to treating them with compassion and working to combat systemic issues that leave our neighbors in need.



- 2/12 Stephanie and Ken Petrbock
- 2/15 Doug Holdhusen & D'Jesus Trujillo
- 2/27 Angie and Ron Nelson

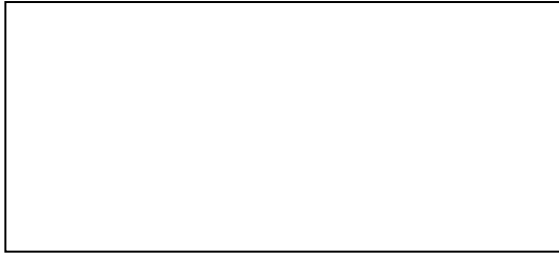


- 2/5 Angela Joseph
- 2/11 Jeff Rodrigues
- 2/12 Frank Croes
- 2/13 Jeanne Peterson
- 2/14 Chloe Halvorson
- 2/17 Rich Williams
- 2/20 Laurel Elliott



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!

March Newsletter Deadline:
 February 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 our
 YouTube Channel**



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facebook.com/christlutheranlb