



Life in Christ, Vol. 69 Issue 4 April, 2025



Prayer is a powerful thing.

In the recent weeks and months, so many of you have been praying for my brother, Joseph. And it has meant the world to me and him. I like to pass along that folks are praying for him so that he remembers that he is not alone in the things that he faces. And as an aside, if you are so inclined, we appreciate your continued prayer as the need persists.

My sweet mother in-law has been praying too. And she is a praying kind of lady. She's one of those people that might even have a more direct line to God, if there were such a thing, because she wholeheartedly believes and knows that prayer is powerful. She has been praying for Joseph too. And she's sent him cards to let him know as well.

As Joseph heals in body, his mind and heart find comfort in the prayers of God's people. I wish he could be here to hear it for himself some time. I wonder what it would be like for him... overwhelming, humbling, encouraging, and certainly comforting. That's the power of prayer.

When you might feel the weight of the world or are facing your own challenges, to whom do you reach out to for comfort, compassion and care? Is it a family member? A friend? Your pastor? A fellow church member?

Well I'd like to perhaps add one to your list of trusted folks- your healing ministers, the congregation members who offer healing prayers on a one on one basis during the distribution of Communion.



Photo by Deb Dowd on Unsplash

What is healing prayer?

In our ELW hymnal, the cranberry book, there is a Service for Healing. It includes this description,

“The Service of Healing may be used in a variety of circumstances in the church’s ministry of care. Those who sense the need for God’s healing in any aspect of their lives may receive the gifts of prayer and of the laying on of hands, which may be accompanied by anointing with oil. These signs, first given in baptism, tell us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world.

In its ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community, nor does it promise a cure. The church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God’s presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God’s promise of wholeness and peace, and God’s love embodied in the community of faith.”

Notice the line...“Those who sense the need for God’s healing in any aspect of their lives may receive the gifts of prayer and of the laying on of hands, which may be accompanied by anointing with oil.”

Although a Service of Healing feels like a sort of special occasion kind of service, the opportunity for healing prayers or a laying on of hands doesn’t have to be.

Did you know? Pastor Nyla Schoeld was the first pastor to introduce the practice of healing prayer in our regular worship services at Christ Lutheran. We think sometime between December 2000 to Spring 2003. And we’ve been incorporating the practice ever since, except for a brief hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the encouragement of Shannon Howard, we reintroduced this practice on Maundy Thursday, 2024.

Did you know? Healing prayer is currently offered by a healing minister for the congregation twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. However, recognizing the need for prayer doesn’t operate on a schedule, the healing ministers invite you to ask them for prayer whenever you might need it, even if they are “off the clock.”

Healing prayer will also be offered at our Co-op Maundy Thursday service coming up in April.

What happens during healing prayer?

The healing minister will ask for what you'd like to receive individual prayer. You can have something specific in mind that you're asking for or regarding, or simply ask for a general prayer. Whatever you might share with the healing minister is between you and them, and God, so don't worry about something being shared elsewhere.



Photo by Rosie Sun on

You might also request a “laying on of hands” or an anointing where the healing minister will place their hands on your head or shoulders while offering a prayer or blessing, or mark you with oil for healing.

As the ELW excerpt said, “In its ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community, nor does it promise a cure. The church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God’s presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God’s promise of wholeness and peace, and God’s love embodied in the community of faith.”

Healing prayers remind us of these great gifts: God’s abiding presence and strength for the journey, God’s promises, and God’s love demonstrated through the church. And don’t we all need reminders of these gifts.

Give healing prayer a try and tell ‘em Pastor Nikki sent you.
They’ll know what to do.

God’s Peace to you-
Pastor Nikki



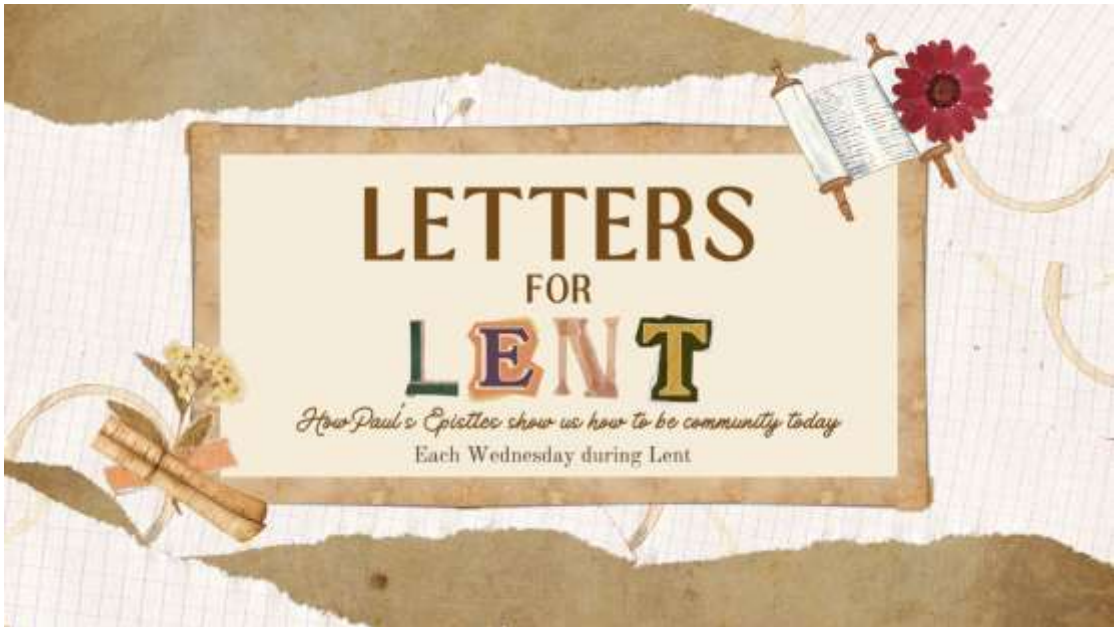
Preschool News

We had our Auction, "Enchantment Under the Sea" on Friday, Mar. 17. We sold 113 tickets and had 85 people in attendance. There were appetizers, cash bar, dessert, wine pull (30 bottles), fish bowl toss, clamshell raffle (for \$200 gift card to 555 or Kings Fish House), treasure chest raffle (for Total Wine and More Wine Tasting Class), matching fish raffle ("Teacher's favorite books" bag) 63 silent auction items, 14 teacher dates, 6 class projects, 5 live auction items (1st rows at Christmas Program and Graduation, Class Party/Date Night, and Private Concert and Naples Rib BBQ, Cambria getaway), fund an item for a new stage for the Christmas Program, and a split cash raffle (\$120 to the winners) It was a lot of fun! Thank you to our emcee; Jeff Wilson, sponsors; Orellana and Cunningham families, creators/decorations and wrapping baskets; Rachyl Theriault and Kim Croes, and everyone that supported us through donations and attending the event! We brought in a total of \$25,475 with a profit of \$18,920!

In the month of March we celebrated St. Patrick's Day. This is always a fun day to play with the children's imaginations; building leprechaun traps, finding clues that the leprechauns have been around and finding a pot of gold! We also had parent teacher conferences. We gave parents the option of meeting in person or via Zoom. We then started Registration for current students and siblings for our upcoming Fall session on March 31st. We will now begin to register people from our waiting list in April.

This month, we will celebrate Week of the Young Child April 7th-11th. We will kick off the week with a special Preschool Sunday service on April 6th. Our Theme for the Week will be "Out of this World" space theme. Each day will be full of fun activities. This is always an exciting and fun week to celebrate young children. We will be closed for Spring Break April 14th-18th. We will have an Easter egg hunt when we return on Monday April 21st.

Wishing you a beautiful Spring!
Lisa Clinton



Our mid-week Lenten series with our Co-op congregations is coming to a close, but the fun will surely continue!

This year, we're participating in a shared Maundy Thursday service with our Co-op congregations.

Thursday, April 17th

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

3352 Katella Ave.

Los Alamitos

Parking is available in the front and rear of the church

6pm- Dinner Baked Potato Bar, Salad, Beverages & Coffee, free will offering with suggested donation of \$5

7pm- Service with Communion

Sign-up sheets will be circulating during Sunday worship so we can have an accurate count for those attending! Please sign up by Sunday, April 13th to let us know that you'll join. If you're unable to sign-up on Sunday morning, please contact Kim Croes at the church office to have your name added.

This event is a great opportunity to celebrate the end of the series, "Letters of Lent," and to be in community and conversation with one another. This event is truly a work of love and a sharing of gifts and resources as we'll see leadership from each congregation, including but not limited to: healing prayer leaders, singers, bread bakers, bell ringers, etc. Bishop Brenda Bos of the Southwest California Synod as well as Bishop Dave Nagler from the Pacifica Synod will be on hand to participate in the festivities. And we're collecting an offering for a worthy cause: Lutheran Disaster Response, earmarked for wildfire relief in southern California.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!



Pastor Nikki, Christ, Long Beach

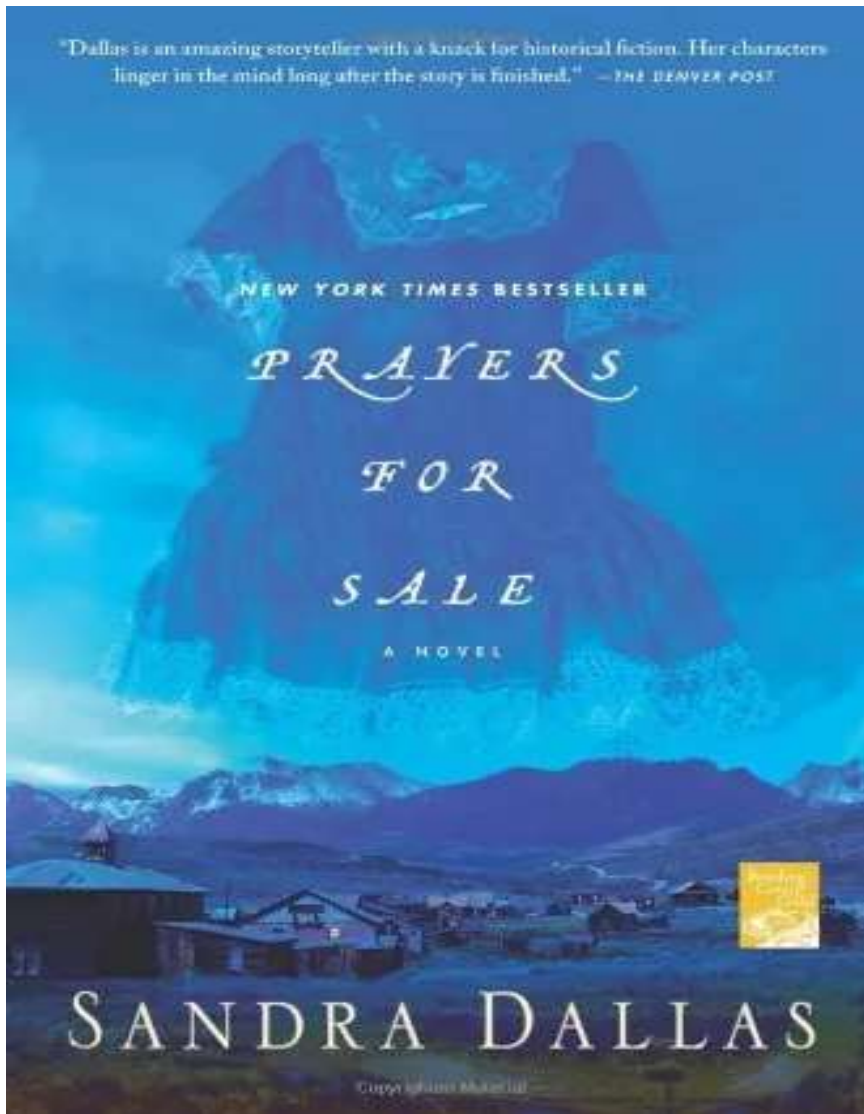
Pastor Jennifer, Bethlehem, Los Alamitos

Pastor Carole, Mt. Calvary, Cypress

Pastor Luther, Our Redeemer, Garden Grove

Pastor Nathan, Our Redeemer, Garden Grove

Women's Book Club this month



Saturday April 26 @ 9am

Panera Bread 2280 N Bellflower Blvd*Long Beach, CA
Drinks, snacks and breakfast items are available for individual purchase
Contact Joyce Carter for information – jcarter383@yahoo.com

Stewardship Focus for April 2025

CHURCH IN SOCIETY COMMITTEE-CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH;

Claudia Fitzpatrick (Church Council), Shannon Howard, Andrea Joseph, Ron Nelson, Pastor Nikki Fielder

The committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, from 6 - 7 PM in the Conference Room; all are welcome!! Give us your input/recommendations on the organizations and charities we could assist.

Church in Society (CIS) serves as the church's Missions Board and Social Action Committee and administers the congregation's "benevolence" monthly giving to the Southwest California Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) 50%. Plus, is instrumental in distributing the other 50% of giving to designated ministries, as follows:

- Linda Gawthorne (CLC member)-Wycliffe Bible Translator, to the Kogi native people of Colombia, in Bogota since the 1970's,
- Lutheran Social Services serving poor and special needs in Long Beach,
- Lutheran Maritime Ministry in the Ports of Long Beach & L A visiting seafarers on ships,
- Habitat for Humanity building homes in greater LB/LA,
- Fe y Esperanza Lutheran Church in South Gate serving Spanish speaking immigrants,
- New Life Beginnings- home & ministry for new mothers in Long Beach,
- Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences in Southern CA,
- Christian Outreach Appeal (COA), serving the poor in downtown LB (originally founded by Christ Lutheran, we serve their dinners five times each year),
- Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service),
- ELCA Disaster and World Hunger Appeal,
- Reconciling in Christ (serving Synod leaders),
- South Coast Interfaith Council (originally Long Beach Council of Churches),
- Lutheran Office of Public Policy in CA (in Sacramento Capitol)

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**We pray for:
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, Beverly Koenen, Kristine Trost, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.

***Family & Friends:** Noah, , Lois Brown, Elsie, Leah Bootman, Denise Davis, Jimmy Ducione, Clark Enebo, Tamra Fitzgerald, Brechin Fournoy, Cindy Gray, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Bryan Koenen, Aaron, Kim & Sienna Koepke, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Carolyn Laitsch, Luke McCann, Joseph, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Sharry Reed, Heather Robinson, Chris Sanderson, David Sarvela, Marlene Shafer, Laura Straus, Vicki Thompson, Jessica and Larisa 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, Austin Rowell, 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.



April 4 Millie and Garrett Book
April 6 Lauren (Trost) and Priyen Prema
April 10 Judy and Rev. Don Koepke
April 21 Linda and Gary Zimmerman

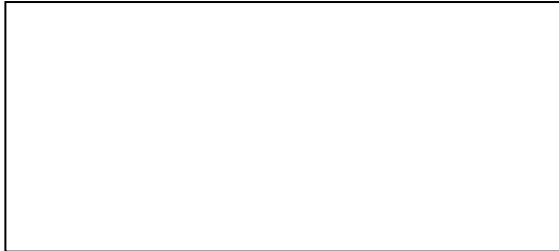


4/1 Brianna Peralta
 4/3 Amanda Johnson
 4/5 Ruth Depuy
 4/5 Pastor Niki Fielder
 4/9 Phyllis Kay
 4/9 Matthew Nelson
 4/10 Laurie Ennen
 4/14 Shannon Howard
 4/17 Stephanie Petrbook
 4/18 John Ennen
 4/27 Lisa Cottrell
 4/27 Mark Moon
 4/28 Paislee Treat
 4/30 Tricia Latiolait
 4/30 Stephanie Murray



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!

May Newsletter Deadline:
 April 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

Please join us in person for Sunday
Worship 9:30am

Live on our YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/@christlutheranlb>



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