

# LIFE IN CHRIST

"Sharing our lives in Christ with family,  
friends, neighbors and community"

February, 2010

Volume 54 - Issue 2

## A New Year, A New Church Council, and Three New Goals

Just last week the congregation met for our Annual Meeting. This was a great time to recognize our accomplishments for 2009 and thank all of you who support this church in so many ways. The Annual Meeting is also the time when we elect a new roster of Church Council members to replace those who have completed their term of office.

I am pleased (and I admit it, a little scared) to be assuming the role of Council President. I have big shoes to fill as I follow in the footsteps of Shannon Timney, our outstanding immediate past-President. I am greatly encouraged by the talented and dedicated church members who have stepped up and agreed to serve as your representatives on the 2010 Church Council.

President-Elect	Kathy Treat
Treasurer	Chris Caldwell
Secretary	Ruth Benner
Church in Society	Ron Nelson
Connections	Kim Croes
Education	Nicole Halverson
Evangelism	Janet Cassara

Property	Kurt Weisel
Stewardship	Gary Burkard
Worship	Susan Clark
Youth	Paige Green

In the months to come we will be sharing with you the work of the Council, Committees and staff as we welcome all, nurture our growth in faith, worship in varied ways and reach out to those in need. To guide us in our work this year, we have adopted three goals: 1) To increase our passionate spirituality; 2) To extend our outreach to seniors, young adults, Christ Lutheran Preschool, and families with young children; and 3) To enhance our communication.

In February the Church Council and staff will meet to identify strategies and activities to accomplish these goals. We will work to include your input and feedback and will make sure and share our progress on a regular basis. If you would like to talk, I am ready to listen! Please feel free to contact me at [melissabiel@yahoo.com](mailto:melissabiel@yahoo.com), 562-496-2462, or catch me at church.

Wishing you God's Grace,  
Melissa Biel

## **MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP TO FOCUS ON PRAYER**

Our mid-week Lenten worship this year will be based on “Holden Prayer Around the Cross”. These services include a flexible order for contemplative prayer that was developed at the Holden Village retreat center in Washington state. Each week we will focus on a particular Scripture passage and a worship service built around that passage. Music, prayer, and gathering around the cross are features each week.

Week 1 – “A Heart of Flesh” – Psalm 51. (Feb. 24)

Week 2 – “Sighs Too Deep for Words” – Romans 8. (March 3)

Week 3 – “Be Still and Know” – Psalm 46. (March 10)

Week 4 – “Beside Still Waters” – Psalm 23. (March 17)

Week 5 “Be Not Afraid” – John 14. (March 24)

Each Wednesday there are two opportunities to participate in this worship. We will gather at 11 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please attend the service that fits your schedule. The morning service will be followed by a soup lunch in the Social Hall.

Because the language is focused and contemporary and the music familiar and simple, you will find these worship services inviting and filled with meaning. These worship services are opportunities to develop our passionate spirituality – a focus for the congregation in 2010.

To further our sense of community in the season of Lent, we invite you to pray for the members of Christ Lutheran who will gather for these worship services. If you cannot attend at 11, pray for those who are gathered. If you cannot attend at 7, pray for those who are gathered. In this way, our sense of community will increase, knowing others are praying for us.

Please make the commitment to join us!

### **Stepping Stone Continues**

Third grade youth and their families have been attending Stepping Stone sessions entitled – *Opening the Bible*. The blessing for this step will take place during worship Sunday, February 14. Keep Lynn Benner, Ethan Dwinell, Chloe Halvorson and Noah Timney in your prayers that they might grow in their knowledge of the Bible during each session.

Fourth grade youth begin their study of The Apostles’ Creed this month. Sessions will be February 21 & 28 and March 7 from noon to 1 p.m. Watch for more information that will be sent to you soon!

### **Confirmation News**

Confirmation sessions take a Lenten & Easter break beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 17 through April 14. Students are expected to participate in mid-week Lenten worship services in their home congregations during the break.

An ice skating party is planned for Friday, February 12 at Glacial Gardens in Lakewood. All confirmation and LOFt youth are invited. Meet at Christ Lutheran Church at 7 p.m. to share rides. Cost is \$15. RSVP to Courtney by February 10 so that drivers can be arranged.

## Sunday School News

This year, in the Season after Epiphany, Sunday school teachers and youth have explored the ways in which the light of Christ is shown through the life and work of all Christians. The logo for Unit 4 is -



The unit logo is in the form of an unfinished quilt – each quilt piece showing some aspect of life related to Christian ministry. We see people singing, dancing, celebrating, communicating with and reaching out to one another. Ministry is being about God’s business – participating in God’s dream – serving the world that God loves.

The quilt logo is unfinished. There is a needle tucked into the side of one of the sections waiting for someone to come and add another piece. The quilt reminds us that the church is a supportive community where deep, personal, spiritual needs are recognized, valued and nurtured as well as a place where we are challenged and called to go out and serve others in the world.



Save The Date-  
Vacation Bible School  
*June 28 – July 2*

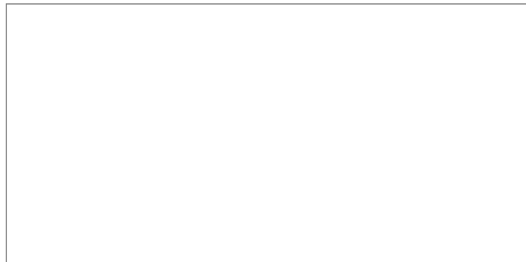
Plans are taking shape for Vacation Bible School this summer. If you would like to part of this exciting week, talk with Nicole Halvorson or Marilyn Chelsvig soon! All skills are needed – games, crafts, music, story telling, science, guides and student aides! Save the date and make plans now to participate!

## Music Ensembles Preparing For Easter

All music ensembles at Christ are preparing music now for the Lenten and Easter seasons! Talk with Marilyn about participating with any of the groups.

Cherub Choir – youth 4-yrs.-kindergarten  
Youth Choir – youth grades 1-5  
Hand Bell – all ages  
Chancel Choir – grade 6 – adult

Now is the time to share your musical ability in the life of the congregation!



Splash! materials are available for children birth to three years of age. Newsletters are ready to be mailed once a month. And, once-a-year CD's with age-appropriate music are ready to send. All that is needed now are sponsors from the congregation who will make sure that mailings are sent on time -- just fold, address, stamp and mail!

Members can also support this ministry through the purchase of a Splash! kit. A \$20 donation will provide helpful parenting information to our young families. Checks may be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church – add *Splash!* to the memo line.

Talk with Marilyn Chelsvig if you are interested in learning more about this important ministry.

## Church in Society

The Church and Society Committee is highlighting some of the ministries that our congregation supports through our benevolence budget. Campus ministry is our current focus. As you may know, we are part of Cooperative Protestant Campus Ministry at CSULB, joining with the Presbyterian Church, United Church of Christ, Church of the Brethren and Disciples of Christ, under the leadership of the Rev. Adele Langworthy. The mission is to provide a community at CSULB for exploring issues of faith and morality and for launching efforts to better the world.

Adele will be our guest at an adult forum between services on March 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be a good time to find

out what is happening on campus. In the meantime, there are ways we can help. The students would love to have home-made cookies. We will have sign-up sheets available so that you can choose a week to bake for them. If you don't want to bake cookies, how about providing paper plates, cups or napkins? There will be a container in the narthex beginning February 14<sup>th</sup> for paper goods. We want to do what we can for this important ministry!

## Youth

### **The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring is coming...Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup>.**

When you come to worship you are encouraged to bring with you donations for LSS, Miller Children's Hospital and the CLC children's worship bags. Please be sure to check the Narthex for a complete list of needed items. All junior and senior high youth will be on hand, in their football gear, ready to cheer as you make your donations. Don't miss this opportunity to donate to local organizations!

#### Items Needed:

LSS-canned goods and monetary donations

Miller Children's Hospital- NEW arts and crafts projects and supplies for bed-bound children to receive

CLC children's worship bags- NEW crayons, coloring books and reading books

**See's Candy will be ready for pick up on February 7<sup>th</sup>.** If you have pre-ordered please be sure to pick up your chocolate before Valentine's Day! Thanks for ordering! We appreciate your help in raising money for Yakama.

### **Dig out your hidden treasures and other rummage items! The Rummage Sale is coming up on Saturday,**

#### **March 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Donations can be brought to the back of the stage beginning Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. All proceeds will go towards the Yakama Mission trip fundraising efforts. If you need a pick-up please contact the church office and be sure to mention what types of items are to be picked up.

#### Youth Calendar

February 1<sup>st</sup>: 6pm- CREW Meeting

February 7<sup>th</sup>: 7:30am-Noon- See's Candy pick-up/Souper Bowl of Caring

February 12<sup>th</sup>: 7pm- Confirmation/LOFT Blackout Skating event

February 21<sup>st</sup>: 9-Noon- KFC Bake Sale, Noon- KFC Meeting

(Rummage sale donations can be dropped off starting today)

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Harriette Probst	2/1		
Janan Fancher	2/2	Chloe Halvorson	2/14
Kathleen Davis	2/4	Lara Mitchell	2/16
Sharon Adams	2/5	Emily Nelson	2/17
Tim Hohmann	2/5	Rich Williams	2/17
Angela Joseph	2/5	Angela Rollins	2/18
Kathy Mitchell	2/5	Sue Fode	2/19
Otis Flournoy	2/7	Karen Wyrick	2/19
Gwen Ostergren	2/7	Laurel Elliott	2/20
Frank Croes	2/12	Jacob Curel	2/24
Jeanne Paige	2/13	Roxanne Palmer	2/27

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Claudia & Rory Fitzpatrick	2/22
Ron & Angie Nelson	2/27

## **IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**

### **At Home/Care Centers**

Jeannette Carter, Ethel Ferguson, Velma Fischer, Jean Johnson, Mikki Nemnich, Ina Olsen, Don Probst, Gesine Reynolds, Eunice Richardson,

### **Illness/ Therapy**

Byron Bruner, Dorothy Henriksen, Pat Nell, Dean Paige, Frances Willms

### **FAMILY & FRIENDS**

Jim Barnes, William Bornemann, Michael Caldwell, Adam Cannon, Beth Cassfory, Kathy Edwards, Joyce Fancher, Mark Jeffries, Cindy Gray, Doris Jung, Logan Keene, Tom Krogstad, Katrina Lahr, Frank Labarba, Adrian Llanes, Dennis Mann, Jackie Melott, Kristi Morelan, Ann Morgon, Caroline Peterson, Jim Pierce Jr., Kristina Randolph, David Sarvela, Don Seymour, Ruth Sierich, Jim Strader, Larry Sutton, Terry Thompson, Leann Wadsworth.

### **THOSE WHO MOURN**

Phil Peterson and family in the death of his wife, Lucretia.  
Bary Schlieder and family in the death of his mother, Jo.

### **AND WE PRAY FOR**

The nation of Haiti

Those suffering from violence and conflict, especially in the Middle East & Kenya. Pray for peace.

Our Partner Congregation: First Lutheran, Carson, CA, Linda Gawthorne & the Kogi Christians in Colombia  
Bishop Dean W. Nelson and our Synod staff.

Those suffering from domestic violence

Those living with HIV and AIDS

**THE PRAYER LIST** The names on the Prayer List are listed for one month. If you request prayers beyond this time limit, please complete a new prayer request. Thanks for keeping us updated on those we remember in prayer. The list will change next month.

## ***Life In Christ***

is the newsletter of

**Christ Lutheran Church**

6500 Stearns Street

Long Beach, CA 90815-3497

562.598.2433

FAX 562.598.2435

Preschool 562.594.6117

Web Site : [www.christlutheranlb.com](http://www.christlutheranlb.com)

E-mails

Kathleen Davis - [officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com)

Pastor Jim Bessey - [pastorjim@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:pastorjim@christlutheranlb.com)

Marilyn Chelsvig, Director of Music & Education - [marilyn@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:marilyn@christlutheranlb.com)

Courtney Cover, Youth Director - [CourtneyLCover@hotmail.com](mailto:CourtneyLCover@hotmail.com)

Lisa Clinton, Preschool - [info@clplb.com](mailto:info@clplb.com)

Newsletter Deadline is February 15, 2010