



From Pastor Pam's Desk

*Lent is the time to prepare... the time to listen to who [Jesus] says he is.
Anne Weems*

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February brings another busy month for me and the ministry here at Christ Lutheran Church. Judy Haenn, Chris Panos and I will be attending the Stephen Ministry Leader Training Course in Anaheim the first week of this month. It is 7 days of learning how to make this ministry of caregiving and connection work in our congregation. I am very happy that we are doing this and that we have such capable women as Stephen Leaders! We will be installing them in worship soon. We will be training our first cadre of Stephen Ministers! The 2016 Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10. I will be doing distribution of ashes on the street on Ash Wednesday afternoon. It's such a remarkable experience to do this and I'm now in my fifth year! People are so grateful for the opportunity to receive ashes when their schedules were too busy to attend worship. I truly enjoy having conversations with people who have no history of the distribution of ashes in their lives – about why we do this – and how often they receive ashes themselves!

I am excited about the way our Wednesday (morning at 11:30 and evening at 6:00) and Sunday services are coming together. We will be using monologues midweek which will help us listen to the story of faith from five different biblical characters. The *Open My Life, Lord* liturgy will be the foundation for these monologues – and we will still have interactive stations, though not as many as the past two years.

I have the privilege of presiding at the wedding of my niece, JayeAnna and her fiancé, Ethan on Valentine's Day. Ethan is being deployed at the end of the month so this date was moved up to accommodate his departure. The wedding is in Ohio and I'm counting on it being cold!

In the meantime, 3rd Graders (and any 4th Graders who missed) will be getting their Bibles through this important stone. And 4th Graders will start their Stepping Stone as well. Life is busy, full of God's grace and fun!

As Lent begins, I pray you will find a discipline that works for you whether it is taking something away (like chocolate, or sweets, or swearing, or fasting, etc.) or adding something to your life (like reading the Bible, prayer, helping others on a schedule, etc.) to make the incredible gift of Jesus laying down his life for us even more real.

+Blessings+ *Pastor Pam*



Here comes Lent...

Within a few days we transition from the joy and light of Epiphany to the reflective season of Lent. Each year as we approach Lent I look forward to the change of pace, the opportunity to slow down to be more mindful of my relationship with God. Lent is a time of spiritual renewal; to reflect and reconnect with God, our neighbor, creation and ourselves; to remember that Jesus calls us to follow, to pray, to serve and to discover what it means to us to be and live as children of God. At our church there are many opportunities to seek God in a fresh, new way during Lent. Now, more than ever, people need to be invited and welcomed into a place where they can feel the love of God and feel loved by the people of God. Invite someone to join you and be prepared to meet the living Christ.

Kaleidoscope Kid's Club, Wednesday 3, 17 & 24, 4:15pm Our Kaleidoscope group for elementary age children will meet every Wednesday during Lent except Ash Wednesday. Come learn about God's love as we do homework, enjoy snacks, play games, portray the story of Jesus preparing to have the Last Supper with his Disciples and share dinner together each week.

Chancel Choir & Praise Team Thursdays, 7pm in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to sing in our choir for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Join us on Thursdays for rehearsal, fellowship and fun.



SOUPerbowl of Caring Sunday, Sunday, February 7. Bring canned food or drop a donation in the soup pot in the narthex as our Middle School Youth collect donations for Lutheran Social Services, Long Beach.

C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce* Sundays, February 7 & 14, 10:45am in the church Conference Room. Bring your personal copy of the book and join Carol Goller for this Adult Education discussion.

Ash Wednesday Worship, February 10, 11:30am & 7pm in the sanctuary. Join us as we begin the Season of Lent with this service of reflection, confession and absolution, the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.



Open My Life, Lord Wednesday Lenten Worship, February 17 & 24, Interactive Worship in the sanctuary & Soup Lunch in Social Hall at 11:30am. Soup Supper 6pm in the Social Hall; Interactive Worship 7pm in the sanctuary.

Daytimers Lunch Bunch, Tuesday, February 23, 11:30am. This group is for those who enjoy day-time activities. Join Kenny and others from church for lunch at Polly's Pies, 4680 E Los Coyotes Diagonal, Long Beach, CA 90815. All are welcome!



Easter Jump Start, Saturday, February 27, 10:00 a.m. to Noon in the sanctuary. This opportunity is open for those whose schedules do not allow regular weekly choir rehearsal. Come have fun learning music for Holy Week and Easter, enjoy fellowship and a festive lunch!

GriefShare, Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the church narthex. This Biblically-based grief support group meets weekly to discuss and share materials addressing topics and issues surrounding grief and loss. The group is led by Constance berg, a certified Grief Counselor.

Koinonia Prison Ministry continues to collect new and used greeting cards. Donations may be left in the basket in the narthex.



Many THANKS to everyone who wrote devotions for our Christ Lutheran Lenten Devotional *Together, We Journey to the Living Christ*. Pick up your copy in the church narthex.

EGGstravaganza is coming SOON.....stay tune for details!

If you were not able to attend the congregational meeting in January and would like to have a copy of the annual report, they will be available in the Narthex on Sundays.



Preschool News

January was a nice quiet month. The teachers were busy working on student assessments and I was busy beginning the planning stages of upcoming events including our Auction which will be on **Sunday, May 22nd**.



We will have our Special Person Day on February 4th. Each child gets to bring a special person (grandparent, aunt, uncle, parent, etc.) and they go to Chapel, enjoy refreshments in the courtyard, and go around doing fun activities in each classroom.

Room 2 will make cards and dye white carnations, Room 3 will make candy cups, Room 4 will have books and games, and Room 5 will have a photo station and picture



frame making.

Later in February we will have conferences and registration for current be the last week of February. We will then go to our waiting list and open enrollment in March for our upcoming summer and fall sessions.



parent/teacher students and siblings will

This year, we decided to have our Book Fair February 20-March 4 so we will be getting ready for that as well.



Wishing you a beautiful month!

Lisa Clinton

"Loose Threads"



Would you like to learn to sew a cute fabric bag, or some shorts or pajama bottoms? Loose Threads is open to all ages and all skill levels. You just bring your sewing machine and project and we provide you with experienced help. Our next meeting will be a Retreat the weekend of February 26-28, 2016. Please call Chris Panos at (562) 986-4393 for questions about this event.

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Bible STUDY Join us!

Men's Bible Study meets on the second Monday of each month. Please join us on Monday, February 8 at 7pm in the conference room.

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SONS OF NORWAY

The Sons of

Norway meet in CLC's Social Hall at noon on the second Saturday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend their next meeting on February 13 at 12pm to see what this cultural group is all about.

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Pray for Peace in the Middle East

Join Pastor Pam in the Sanctuary on the 24th of each month at 7pm to pray for



peace in this fragile and volatile area of the world. Raising our voices together in hope for respect and resolution is one way that we can support our brothers and sisters in this region.

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members at Home or in Care Centers:

Coleen & Spud Fenton, Velma Fischer, Jean Johnson and Mikki Nemnich.

Those struggling with illness or other concerns: Justin Bartlow, Ann & Byron Bruner, Dolores DeSha, Judy Haenn, Dorothy Henriksen, Steve Howard, Shirley Pierce, Ken Petrbok, Bill & Mary Sargent, Bary & Janice Schlieder.

Family & Friends: Dick & Lois, Melisa Barron, Ellen, Clara Caldwell, Anthony Callaghan, Edi Callas, Dan Cameron, Lillian Chur, Anna Delgado, Delaney, Nancy Dionne, Zack Elliott, Ricardo Espinoza, Kathy Goodwin, Alberta Gray, John Green, Anne Harrington, Julia Hedlund, Bobbie Hoenig, Helen Horner, Carol Horst, Patty Howard, Leslie Hoskins, Ted Howard, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Dara Johnson, Jeff Kolsin, Katrina Lahr, Richard Loy, Mabel Manzur, David Matlock, John McCormick, Steve Nelson, Kristina Randolph, Nohemy Ruiz, Perry Taggart, Pastor Paul Theiss, Janette & John Velarde, Michael, Nikki, Liliann, Vaughn, Lara, Barbara, Dick, Jenny & Steve West.

Those serving in our nation's military; especially Samuel Brown, Rachel & Victor Colon, Aaron Crayton, Nicholas Flournoy, Richard Gallegos, Zachary Krog, John Lamberton, Brittany Graham, Davis McElwain, Morgan Llewellyn, Haley Fessenden, Johnny Luna, Shawn McRae, Emily Merritt, Michael Joseph Navarro, Jim Reeder, Douglas Steelhammer, Jonah Westcott, Joshua Wauchope.



Happy Anniversary

2/15 Doug Holdhusen and D'Jesus Trujillo

2/27 Angie and Ron Nelson



2/1 Harriette Probst

2/2 Janan Fancher

2/4 Kathleen Davis

2/5 Angela Joseph

2/5 Kathy Mitchell

2/7 Gwen Ostergren

2/11 Jeff Rodrigues

2/12 Frank Croes

2/12 Jeanne Peterson

2/14 Chloe Halvorson

2/17 Rich Williams

2/18 Angie Rollins

2/19 Karen Wyrick

2/20 Laurel Elliott

2/24 Jacob Curel

**We pray for the ongoing work of:
Linda Gawthorne among the Kogi
people of Colombia.**



New Member Bios

Tom, Carole and Aidan Parmeter-Dyer

Many Christ Lutheran members remember when Tom and Carole were not only members of CLC but also on staff here. They have had some adventures since then, especially growing their family with the birth of their son, Aidan. When asked what prompted their choice of CLC for their current home church, they told us, "CLC is our home church from the 1990s, when Tom and I were the musicians of the church, along with Jim Petri. Carole went to PLTS from here, and when the family moved back to Long Beach from Northern California, CLC was our home church until Carole started her internship at King of Glory in Fountain Valley. Aidan also attended preschool at CLC in Mrs. Gomez' class! We love the vibrant energy of CLC that comes from the members, Pastor Pam, Kenny and Aaron!"

Tom is still teaching music in Long Beach Unified - this year he started a new assignment teaching elementary instruments at four different schools. Carole is a pastor now, and finished her first call at Christ, Orange in July. She is on leave from call for the time being and is supply preaching in Long Beach and Orange County. Aidan is in 6th grade and is being homeschooled for middle school - great adventures! He is in confirmation at CLC, plays drums and likes to go on hikes and walks with his dog BJ. All three of us are members of Woven Image, a Celtic/folk/jazz ensemble and we do concerts every year to raise money for the Woven Image Sewing Institute in Hyderabad, India.

Heidi, Ricardo and Wendy Espinoza

Ricardo was born and raised in Huntington Beach and was baptized in the Catholic Church. He is the 10th of 13 brothers and sisters. Ricardo had a heart attack 3 months ago and had a quintuple bypass, open heart surgery and is unable to work at the present.

Heidi was born in Glendale and raised in Huntington Beach. She was baptized in a Lutheran church and has one brother, who passed away in 2009. Heidi just had their baby girl, Wendy, three months ago and is currently a stay at home mom. We have adult sons as well and 1 grandson, 3 years old. They enjoy spending time with their new baby; Ricardo enjoys fishing and Heidi loves to read and take walks. The reason they joined this church is they really love Pastor Pam and enjoy listening to her during church! Also they love the people in the congregation...so welcoming.

Ken Yliniemi

Ken grew up near Ponsford, Minnesota on a farm in the country. He is single, but has four sisters, and 5 nieces and nephews all who live in Minnesota. Ken works as a commercial credit analyst for Zaszou Business Services in El Segundo. His hobbies include; gardening, camping, hiking, working out, cooking, reading, and travel. He "wanted CLC as my church because of its welcoming, warm, open, diverse, and accepting people who worship here... and it reminds me a little of Minnesota each time I attend." Ken volunteers as a Native Habitat steward, and a Trail Steward at the El Dorado Nature Center; "I love it... and would be happy to show any one around with a naturalist's view of the center and all of God's great creatures that live there."

Introducing your church council for 2016:

President	Gary Burkard
President-Elect	Andy Trost
Treasurer	Frank Croes
Treasurer-Elect	Melissa Biel
Secretary	Ingrid Fuelleman-Ramos
Church in Society	Ruth Benner
Connections	Kristine Trost
Education	Rebecca Green
Evangelism	Jeanne and Phil Peterson
Property	Greg Koch and Marv Moon
Stewardship	Doug Holdhusen
Worship and Music	Lonnie Timney
Youth and Family	Elliot and Ellecia Williams

Thank you to our outgoing council members for all of your hard work on behalf of Christ Lutheran: Kathy Mitchell, Pat Barnett, Chris Caldwell, Matt Green, Mike Maricle and Scott Ostergren.

Lent, Holy Week & Easter 2016

- **February 10 - Ash Wednesday Worship**

11:30am & 7pm

With the Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion

- **February 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16**

Wednesday Lenten Worship

Open My Life, Lord

Interactive Worship & Soup Lunch 11:30am

Soup Supper 6pm, Interactive Worship 7pm

- **March 20 - Palm Sunday Worship** 9:15am

- **March 24 - Maundy Thursday Worship** 7pm

With Foot Washing & Holy Communion

- **March 25 - Good Friday Worship** 7pm

- **March 26 - Easter Vigil** 7pm

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90813

- **March 27 - Easter Worship** 8 & 10:30am

Festival Worship with Holy Communion

Easter Breakfast 9:15-11am

Excerpts from Linda Gawthorne's Kogi Chronicles:

Dear CLC family,

What great joy it is to know that a Savior has been born for us and He is our Lord. This good news is for all people. It gives me great joy this Christmas to know that the Kogis can read the Christmas story in their own language in the New Testaments they received in January. Those who can't read can listen to the good news of Jesus' birth in audio format.

I celebrated Christmas in Colombia and it's the second Christmas since my mother was called into the presence of Her Savior whose birth we celebrate. I returned to my Bogotá home on Nov. 14 after selling my mother's Sacramento home. I had a very full nine+ months in the US which included the total replacement of both knees, a vein surgery, monthly intraocular injections for macular degeneration, as well as clearing out and selling my mother's home. The best part of my months in the U.S. was the opportunity to see and be encouraged by quite a few of you.

Here in Colombia I'm settling back into a house that is looking quite different as I decided to ship some of my mother's furniture to Colombia. It is a blessing to have her things around me ... and I really needed new furniture! Last week I had my first injection for macular degeneration here. It is done very differently and I had to be admitted to an eye hospital for outpatient surgery as the injections are given in the surgical suite which meant getting dressed in surgical garb and being wheeled into the room on a gurney. My new retinologist here just finished her fellowship at UC San Diego.

We continue to be very aware of the spiritual battle raging around us. The Kogi pastor, Juan Carlos, and his family are here for counseling due to his wife's recent inappropriate behavior. Our church in Bogotá has asked them to stay here for a minimum of six months after a three week trip home over Christmas. I am thankful to see that Rosita seems to be working on changing her attitude and actions. She is reading God's Word a lot more and has a sweeter spirit. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will help her make the



needed changes and grow into a mature believer. The Kogi church needs to see an example of a godly Kogi woman. Our house is full as they have two children and are raising a niece. Their presence here will allow Juan Carlos and I to work on Genesis.



In February my Kogi seminary and university student will return and I may have another student as well. David has real potential to be a Christian leader and is currently serving as worship leader, but has been struggling in his teen years. Please pray for the Kogi church as they will be without their pastor for so many months as well as potentially without their worship leader.

We have also been caught up in the spiritual battle of dealing with the situation of a couple who made a commitment to help Kogi students in Santa Marta as well as other aspects of the Kogi ministry, but have not carried through with what they agreed to do in spite of receiving funding. It has been very stressful since we realized we needed to terminate the agreement. Please pray as we continue to deal with this. Also pray for God's provision of a godly couple to help the Kogis. It will take time to find such a couple so pray that in the meantime we can find a place for three Kogi students to live when the school year begins in February.

In mid to late January, God willing, I'll be going to the Kogi farm to stay several weeks. I am hoping my new knees will carry me up at least part of the very steep trail! I would like to spend time in discipling the women and counseling with women and teens. As the Kogi pastor will be away he has some things he would like for me to do to help in his absence.

The Kogis and I send you at CLC our heartfelt thanks for your prayers and support over many years.

Linda Gawthorne