



**January 2016
Volume 60, Issue 1**

From Pastor Pam's Desk **Happy New Year!**

I've been doing a lot of thinking about this past year. For me January started off with such amazing, holy and awe-filled activity as I went to Palestine and Israel one year ago. It was an incredible fortnight of walking where Jesus walked and experiencing places that I had only read about in books. When I think of all that's gone on in the Holy Land this year, all the bombings and shootings and deaths....all I feel like doing is crying, and hanging my head in despair. Instead, we pray – every 24th of the month – for peace in this land of three religions. As Christians we believe that prayer changes things, so we'll keep on praying! Thank you for allowing this congregation's space to be used as a place where people can gather to pray, and to share, and to learn more about this land. I am still planning on taking people on a trip to the Holy Land in January, 2017. Start saving today!

We have lived through a lot this past year as a congregation. 1) We have said our final good-byes to three pillars of our church: Betty Dahl, Dottie Fuelleman, and Barbara Westerhoff. These saints have left us with legacies of engagement and belief in this congregation; something we all need to live into!

2) We have also welcomed many new members this past year whose gifts and engagement in our congregation are welcomed and celebrated!

3) Our youth programs are growing (Sunday school, confirmation, middle and high school youth). Our music ministries are strong. The office hums as we work hard and work well together.

4) We made huge improvements on our campus with soffit and fascia repairs, painting, a new roof on the Education building, as well as improvements in the Preschool rooms and the playground.

5) Programs have abounded this year, too. Lots of offerings for worship, education, information, spiritual formation, personal growth and just plain fun!

As we move into 2016, what does God have in store for us here? God only knows! We do have some ideas and we will continue more of numbers 2-5. I'm excited as we move forward under

our banner *Christ is Alive!* Blessings to us all in this new year! *Pastor Pam*



In January we welcome the season of Epiphany. During Epiphany, the church celebrates the revelation of Jesus to all nations as represented by the magi's visit. These wise men arrive to find a helpless child swaddled and lying in a manger, surrounded by his poor parents who were taking shelter in a dark cave. Each of the wise men were undoubtedly

challenged and changed by this sight.

Epiphany is about the unexpected: unexpected joys and coincidences as well as unexpected challenges and difficulties. In Epiphany the magi traveled a road that changed their lives. For many of us our lives have taken routes we never expected to travel changes in our health, employment, relationships, things that seem comfortable or not. During these times, as we journey in uncharted territory Epiphany reminds us God walks every path with us. In this, we have opportunity to welcome and call upon God's love and grace in new ways ... and as we do, we are changed forever.

As the wise men followed and encountered the message of the star, we too are encouraged to do the same. In the defenseless baby Jesus, God comes to us revealing the essence of life-changing love. Epiphany is our invitation to come, see and experience what this baby born to a young mother might mean for us and for the world around us.



Kaleidoscope Kid's Club Epiphany Party, Wednesday, January 6, 4:15 p.m. Come create a star treat, play chime bells and start the New Year with a blast!

Chancel Choir Thursday, January 7, 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to come learn music for Epiphany, Lent and Easter. No previous experience necessary!

"Sock It To Me" Sundays January 10 & 17 Help us collect socks for Lutheran Social Services, Long Beach. Donations of White Tube Socks may be left in the basket in the church narthex.



Handbell Choir Tuesday, January 12, 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Want to have fun learning to play an instrument? This group provides opportunity to learn the basics of note reading and rhythm where making mistakes is part of the process. Everyone is welcome.

Daytimers Lunch Bunch, Tuesday, January 26, 11:30 a.m. This group is for those who enjoy day-time activities. Join Kenny for lunch at Polly's Pie 4680 E Los Coyotes Diagonal, Long Beach, CA 90815. All are welcome!



Easter Jump Start, Saturday, January 30, 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 a festive lunch and fellowship!

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.



Together, We Journey to the Living Christ Lenten Devotional

Volunteers are needed to help create a Christ Lutheran Church devotional book for the Season of Lent. Submissions might include: a Bible passage with a devotional thought, a poem, song lyrics, a story, a picture and/or a prayer. Questions: see Kenny Callaghan.

Many THANKS for all your generosity and donations to Lutheran Social Services (LSS), Christian Outreach in Action (COA), Koinonia Prison Ministry, Joanie's Purse, Navajo Lutheran Mission, Long Beach Rescue Mission, Lutheran Maritime Ministry and so much more during the Holiday Season. Lives have been touched because of your gifts of love and service to others.

Save the Date!

January 30 10am—2pm at the Synod Offices

1300 E. Colorado Street Glendale

Dr. Sam Thomas, Associate Professor of Religion at California Lutheran University will present...

Historical Israel and the State of Israel Today

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)



Preschool News

In December, we had a Pajama day on December 2nd and were able to collect an overflowing basket full of pajamas and books for Lutheran Navajo Mission.



On Fri, December 11, we got into the Christmas spirit with a ride on the big red bus to look at the Christmas lights in Naples and Belmont Shores.



We packed the sanctuary for our Christmas December 18 and then enjoyed hot cocoa made with the Church staff.



Program on Friday and cookies that were

Our winter break was Christmas Eve through New Year's Day. We were able to get the carpets cleaned, the trees trimmed, ramp painted while we were gone. and the



Now, we come back to a relatively calm month of January. The teachers will begin working on student assessments in preparation for parent teacher conferences in February.

Wishing you a beautiful month!
Lisa Clinton

The Society Page

The official news from CLC's *Church in Society Committee*

Christ Lutheran Church...

You are awesome!!

Throughout the year, you have given graciously and generously whenever asked. As a community, we have been able to provide quilts to hundreds of the homeless, meals and canned goods to the hungry, warm caps to seafarers, greeting cards to inmates, hygiene kits to the needy, money and mosquito nets to fight malaria, bible sticks to our service men and women, purses to abused or forgotten women and pajamas and books to Navajo children in the desert. All of this in addition to the time and money you commit individually to your favorite charitable organizations.

Your *Church in Society* committee will continue to keep CLC involved in world and local organizations which require our help. If you find a need in and you think we might be able to assist, contact Ruth Benner or any other member of the Church in Society committee with details

The focus of this committee is community outreach. If this sounds like something that you would be interested in we would love for you to join us in this effort. Consider joining us at our monthly meeting.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 5:00pm in the Conference Room in the Office. Our next meeting is on November 5th. We welcome your input and enthusiasm. If you have any questions feel free to talk to any committee member or to the Ruth Benner @ bennerlowellruth@aol.com or 562.833.0709.

"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 on **January 10, 2016 at 12:00pm.** Please call Chris Panos at (562) 986-4393 for questions about the group or about the project you want to bring.

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Men's Bible Study meets on the **second Monday** of each month. Please join us on **Monday, January 11 at 7pm** in the conference room.

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The Sons of Norway meet in



SONS OF NORWAY

CLC's Social Hall at noon on the second Saturday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend their next meeting on **January 9 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 Petrbook, 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.

We pray for the ongoing work of:

Linda Gawthorne among the Kogi people of Colombia.

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.



- 1/2 *Beverly Koenen*
- 1/2 *Jared Petrbook*
- 1/5 *Bary Schlieder*
- 1/7 *Kristine Trost*
- 1/9 *Matt Green*
- 1/9 *Jennifer Latiff*
- 1/11 *Melissa Biel*
- 1/6 *Linda McGee*
- 1/8 *Kathy Klute-Nelson*
- 1/20 *Marvin Moon*
- 1/22 *Gloria Tadlock*
- 1/24 *Rob Randig*
- 1/27 *Mark Ennen*
- 1/27 *Garrett Latiolait*