



Pastor Pam's Pennings

December 2016
Volume 60, Issue 12

Another year is about to close...and oh what a year it was! The November Election races were exhausting; we experienced record drought here in Southern California; the Summer Olympics happened in Rio; The Denver Broncos won the Super Bowl; the Chicago Cubs won the World Series, just to name a few highlights of this past year.

As a church, what have our highlights been? As Lutheran Christians, we begin a year of celebration of the Reformation which began on October 31, 1517 as Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the Wittenberg Church door. There will be lots of trips offered this year by lots of companies to go to Germany. I'm all for going...in 2018 after the crowds die down.

As a congregation, what have our highlights been?

- We have met weekly and celebrated God's continual presence with us in worship, fellowship, and life.
- We began a Stephen Ministry program and have five Stephen Ministers working with care receivers.
- We have continued our partnership with Habitat for Humanity as we built and improved homes for people.
- We said good-bye to Kenny Callaghan as he moved to Virginia to become an ordained MCC Pastor.
- We said hello to Pastor Carole and Tom Parmeter Dyer as they moved into the empty spot of Director of Worship and Music.
- We had a fabulous Vacation Bible School experience.
- We fed people, lots of people, at Christian Outreach in Action (COA).
- We celebrated our congregation's 60th and our Preschool's 50th anniversaries.
- We celebrated our Stewardship Program.
- We have married and buried and baptized people on their life's journey.

What will 2017 bring? Only God knows for sure! Our job is to be faithful stewards of each day's blessings that God gives us. How will we continue to function as a church? By your continued prayers and generosity we will move into the future together and by God's grace we will continue to do what we are doing...and even more!

As we look, once again, into that manger and see Emmanuel (God with us), I pray that this Advent/Christmas Season will bring to even deeper appreciation the reality of our God whose presence is in our breath! Our baptismal promises keep us bound to God's eternal and everlasting love for us.

May this reality mark our days with Love, Hope, Peace and Joy!

+Blessings+

Pastor Pam



Renaissance and Reformation Exhibit at LACMA

Los Angeles County Museum of Art presents

"Renaissance and Reformation: German Art in the Age of Dürer and Cranach"

**November 20, 2016 - March 26, 2017 at the Resnick Pavilion
5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036**

Coinciding with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, "Renaissance and

Reformation: German Art in the Age of Dürer and Cranach" brings to Los Angeles some of the greatest achievements of German Renaissance art. The period was marked by conflicts, civil wars, and complex relationships with neighboring countries, but also witnessed a flourishing of many states and cities, reflected in the skills of their craftsmen. The exhibition comprises over 100 pieces, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, arms and armors, as well as decorative arts. Consider organizing a group from your congregation, fellowship, or ministry group to visit LACMA as part of your Reformation 500 observance! Admission to "Renaissance and Reformation" is part of LACMA's general admission - no special tickets are necessary.

From the Interim Directors of Music and Worship

As we approach the end of the church year and season of Advent which begins a new year in the life of the church, we are thankful for the time we have been with you at CLC. Beginning with our Summer Pick Up Choirs, starting up Hand Bells, Praise Team and Chancel Choir rehearsals, planning worship with Pastor Pam, choosing music, and now preparing for Thanksgiving Eve worship, Christ The King Sunday, Advent, our annual Christmas Concert and Christmas Eve worship – we are honored and thankful to be your music and worship leaders! We are also thankful for our time with the preschool children in room 5 for Music Makers and the fourth grade boys who make up Kaleidoscope.

Stephen Colbert was interviewing Sting, and said that he was humbled whenever he met and spoke with musicians because they made magic happen in composing, and performing their music.

Magic is defined as: “The power of apparently influencing events by using mysterious or supernatural forces.” The origin of the word comes from the Greek, for Magi, or Mage – Magi were considered to be magicians.

I believe that the “magic” that happens is when the music surrounds us, and whether we are singing along, or listening, we are connected to something greater than just ourselves. Something indeed mysterious and supernatural: the Creative Power of the Universe, God, Christ, Love....

Music has the power to break open a hardened heart and fill it with grace and love and healing. Music brings the Word of Truth and Life into our bodies at a cellular level, and music heals our grieving spirits. St. Augustine said, “(S)he who sings prays twice.” I believe this to be true. When we sing in church, when we sing our prayers at home, when we listen to sacred music as prayer, it goes deeper. Music is also a gift and tool to help us in our work for peace and justice in our world.

We are thankful for you, dear CLC family, for giving us this time and place to make music with you and for you.

Plan to join us for:

- ❖ **Thanksgiving Eve Worship – 7pm**
- ❖ **Christmas Concert – Sunday, December 11th at 3pm**
- ❖ **Christmas Eve Worship – 5pm and 10pm**
- ❖ **Worship-Every Sunday at 9:30!**

The choirs, praise team, and children have been rehearsing for many weeks to prepare the way of the Lord! We look forward to experiencing the magic with you!

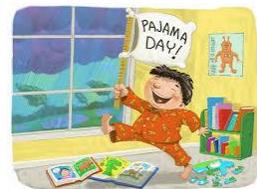
Peace and Hope, Carole and Tom Parmeter Dyer



Preschool News

November seemed to fly by. On the 23rd we celebrated Thanksgiving with a school wide performance and a finger food feast in the social hall. The tables looked beautiful with the centerpieces and placemats that the children made.

Our pajama day on November 29th was a lot of fun and very successful. We collected pajamas and books to donate to the Lutheran Navajo Mission.



In December, we will have a special family outing on Dec 11th with a Christmas lights tour of Naples on the Big Red Bus. We will start with cookies and cocoa with Santa and then board the open air double decker bus and listen to live guitar music leading us in Christmas carols as we take in all of the beautiful lights.

What a great way to get in the Christmas spirit!

Our annual Christmas program, "Who Is Coming to Our House" will be on Friday, in the sanctuary. The sanctuary is special program. All of the Room 4 & 5 will be our stable Joseph, Room 3 will be angels, drummer boys & girls, Room 1 sheep, and Room 6 will be the star and "wise babies".



"Who Is Coming to Our December 16th at 3:30pm always packed for this children participate. animals and Mary & Room 2 will be little will be shepherd and

We will be closed for winter break December 23 through January 2nd. School will resume on January 3rd.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Lisa Clinton

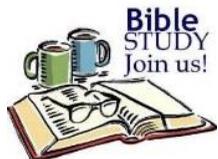
"Loose Threads"

Loose Threads is a small group of sewers and quilters, who meet once a month,



bring their sewing machines and a wide assortment of projects to work on. It's having that dedicated time to work on a sewing project free from distractions that is not only nice, but fun when in the company of friends! We welcome all age levels and all degrees of sewing abilities to join us. We are taking a break during December but be thinking about a project you might like to start in January. We meet at 12:30pm in the Social Hall. Call Chris Panos (562)986-4393 for more information and 2017's schedule.

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Bible STUDY
Join us!

Men's Bible Study Meets on the second Monday of each month. Men of all ages are welcome to meet in the conference room on December 11 at 7:00pm.

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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 meetings to see what this cultural group is all about. Please plan to come to their first fall meeting on **December 12.**

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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.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members at Home or in Care Centers: Anne Bruner, Coleen & Spud Fenton, Jean Johnson and Mikki Nemnich.

Those struggling with illness or other concerns: Justin Bartlow, Judy Haenn, Dorothy Henriksen, Ione Marchael, Chris Nelson, Bary and Janice Schlieder.

Family & Friends: Bruce Ayers, Ellen Benner, Melanie Baggao, Anthony Callaghan, Edi Callas, Cathy and Andy, Anna Delgado, Nancy Dionne, Kathy Goodwin, Alberta Gray, Carol Gray, John Gumas, Anne Harrington, Bobbie Hoenig, Leslie Hoskins, Ted Howard, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Laurie Kelly, William Jacobsen, Doris Jung, Audrey Rae Jimenez, Katrina Lahr, Doris List, Barbara McKinney, Mabel Manzur, Steve Nelson, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Nohemy Ruiz, Debra Sarvela, Perry Taggart, Jack Taylor, Rev. Paul Theiss, Janette Velarde, Dick, Jenny & Steve West and Gary Zimmerman.

Those serving in our nation's military: Jason Arellano, Samuel Brown, Gene Chen, Rachel & Victor Colon, Ethan Cordle, Michael Cote, Aaron Crayton, Nicholas Flournoy, Richard Gallegos, Chandler Hoover, John Lamberton, Brittany Graham, Davis McElwain, Morgan Llewellyn, Haley Fessenden, Johnny Luna, Shawn McRae, Emily Merritt, Steven Andrew Navarro, Michael Joseph Navarro, Jim Reeder, Sophie Schade, Douglas Steelhammer, Jonah Westcott, Joshua Wauchope.

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



Happy Anniversary

12/5 Julia and Jeff Curel
12/30 Susan and Mike Clark



12/2 Kathryn Tinsley
12/3 Angel Trujillo
12/6 Shirley Pierce
12/8 Judy Haenn
12/12 Aaron Tidwell
12/13 Samantha Benoit
12/13 Daniel Peralta
12/13 Linda Zimmerman
12/15 Kevin Barnett
12/15 Claudia Fitzpatrick
12/18 Renu Moon
12/19 Angie Nelson
12/19 Hugo Paez
12/20 Dylan Mora
12/20 Carole Parmeter Dyer
12/23 Annette Rodrigues
12/26 Justin Bartlow
12/7 Pat Barnett
12/31 Ruth Benner

Lutheran Social Services Community Christmas Celebration

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Long Beach will be distributing gifts to children, (ages 0-18, male and female), in need. They urgently need gift items and monetary support to purchase food and other supplies for the party itself.

Gifts: Children ages 0-11, a gift value of \$10 is recommended. Please wrap the gift and label it 'male or female' and include the appropriate age of the recipient.

Children ages 12-18, \$15 gift cards to Target or Walmart are appreciated. Please include the gift receipt with the gift cards.

Please bring your contribution to church by **Sunday, December 4. There will be labeled bins in the Narthex beginning November 6. Cash/check donations for this event can be given to the church office and we will see that they go directly to LSS. Please make checks payable to LSS.**

Due to the large number of individuals and families that LSS serves on a daily basis, they will not be sponsoring individual families this year. Instead they are requesting your regular donations of canned goods and some of the special holiday items listed below.

Canned Ham or Spam

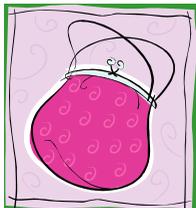
Canned: sweet potatoes, gravy, fruit, pumpkin, corn, green beans, yams and corned beef hash

Boxed: macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes

Bagged: Marshmallows

Please bring these items to the church Narthex and place them in the basket marked, "LSS Food Items". Thank you for your generous support!

Joanie's Purse Project Holiday 2016



Bring cheer into the lives of women this holiday season!

“Joanie’s Purses” provides purses filled with personal care items, snacks and small gifts to women in Orange County shelters, motels and support programs.



Items Needed

Large to medium purses, new or gently used

Sample or travel size personal care items:

Deodorant
Shampoo
Kleenex

Chap stick/Lip Balm
Conditioner
Toothbrush/Toothpaste

Body Wash/Bar Soap
Hand Sanitizer
Lotion

Snacks and small gifts:

Granola Bars
Socks
Cosmetic Bags

Fruit Rolls
Jewelry
Hair Brushes

Nuts/Trail Mix
Wallets
Mascara/Eye Liner

Donation Deadline: Sunday, December 4, 2016

If you would like to volunteer to sort and fill purses in Santa Ana
on Saturday, December 10, 2016 10am-12:30pm

Contact: Berd email: berddunlap@aol.com

Cell: 714 271 4599

Visit Facebook/Joanie's Purse Project

Affiliated with Catholic Charities of Orange County





Donate *new, unwrapped toys*

(\$15 min. value) Ages 0-16

**All going to benefit over 1,800 children at
Christian Outreach in Action's Christmas Party**

Gift Suggestions:

6 mo—3 yrs: board books, educational toys, Sesame Street®, soft dolls, and Tonka® trucks

4—7 yrs: picture books, Duplo®, building sets, dress-up kits, board games, sports equipment

8 to 12 yrs: chapter books, Lego® sets, jewelry/craft kits

13 to 16 yrs: personal music players and batteries, trendy watches, necklaces, make-up kits, nail kits, electric shavers, gift cards for movies & clothing stores

For more information or larger donations:

Christian Outreach in Action

515 East Third St., Long Beach, CA 90802

(562) 432-1440





Christ Lutheran Church invites you
to our annual

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 11th, 3pm

Featuring our Choirs
and Special Guests

**Free-will Offering to benefit the
Music Department**

Dinner reception following the concert
All Are Welcome!

6500 Stearns Street, Long Beach, 90815

While we refer to it as "shoe box" from its history, **PLEASE DO NOT PUT ITEMS IN SHOE BOXES!** They can't pass inspections at the gates.

You may put them in Christmas sacks/bags individually! OR, just buy items in bulk and the volunteers at the Seafarer's Center will sort and package them!

Thank you for you generosity and Christmas Spirit!

SEAFARERS' CHRISTMAS GIFTS

THE INTERNATIONAL SEAFARER'S CENTER and LUTHERAN MARITIME MINISTRY HAVE AGAIN BEGUN THE ANNUAL COLLECTION OF GIFT ITEMS TO BE GIVEN TO SEAFARERS! The crews aboard ships in our Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach very much appreciate these gifts and your thoughtful concern for them during the holiday season. Without your support and the support of our other Lutheran congregations, only a small number of would receive these gifts!

Suggested items:

- *packaged disposable razors, shaving cream, and other shaving items
- *deodorant, combs, shampoo, body wash
- *note pads, pens, envelopes, pack of cards
- *microwave popcorn, chewing gum, individually wrapped hard candy
- *socks
- *tooth paste, toothbrushes

**PLEASE NO BARS OF SOAP!
(THE SMELL GETS INTO EVERYTHING!)**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARROUND CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY! Call us for mission presentations or Maritime Sundays!

The LMM much appreciates the financial support of our Synod and many congregations! All contributions from individuals and churches are necessary to continue this ministry! Questions? Call Terry Wall 310/068-0409, Ron 562/754-1446 or Chaplain Samson Chauhan, (562) 209-1577 shekhard01@gmail.com

**Enjoy Advent and Christmas!
Christ be with you,
Ron Nelson
LMM Board of Directors**