



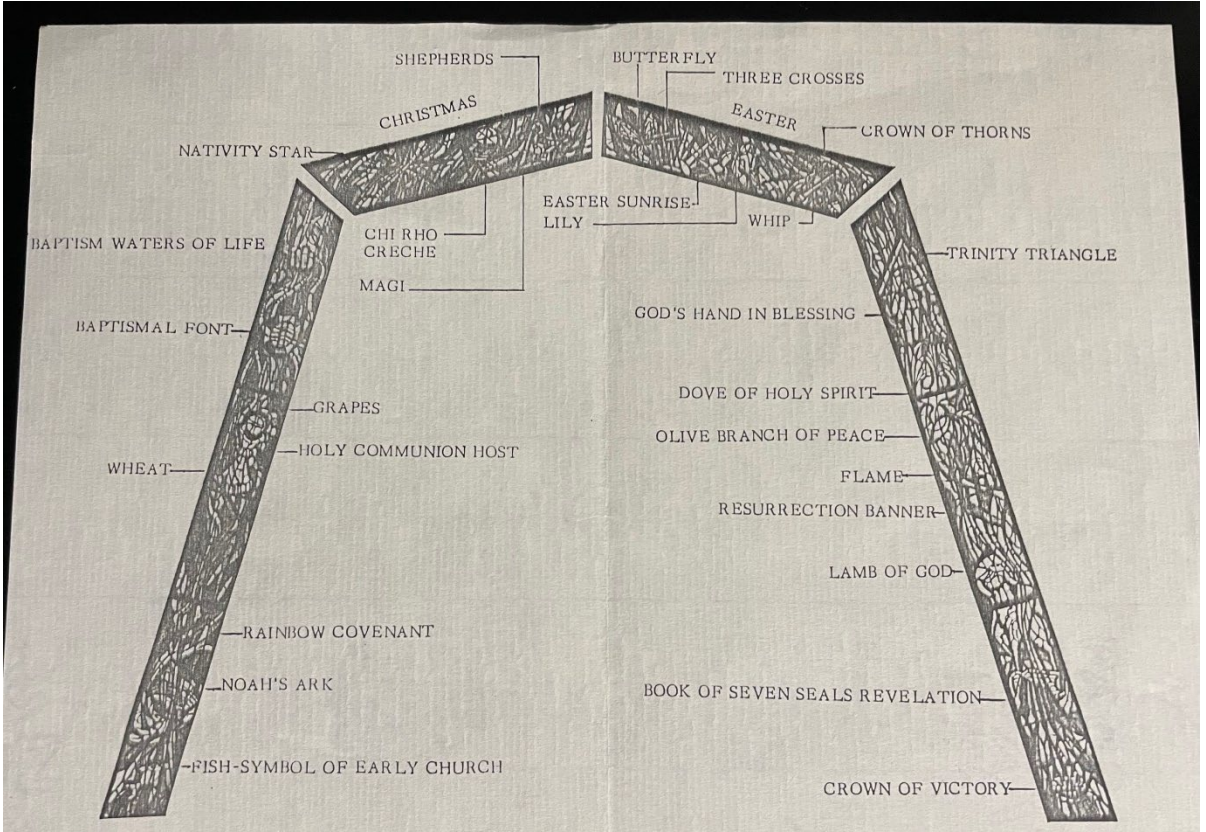
## Life in Christ, Vol. 68 Issue 4 April, 2024

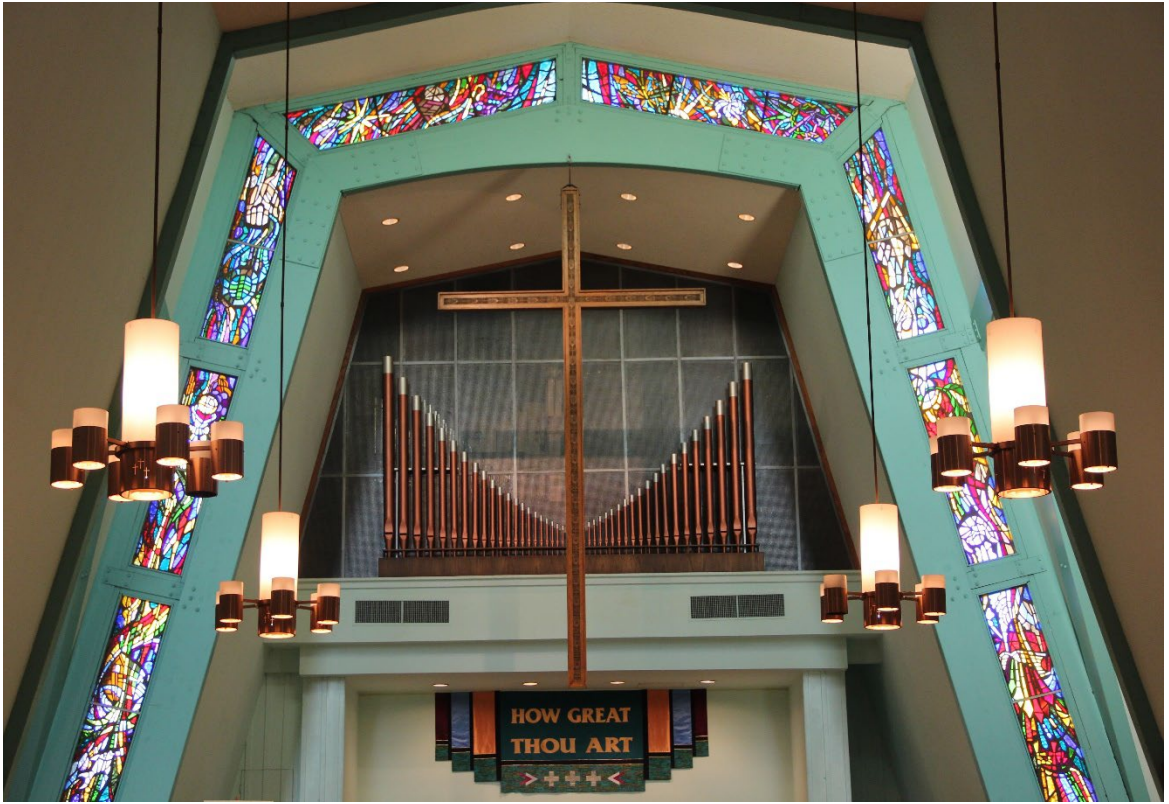
As a newbie here at Christ Lutheran, I have the opportunity to see this place with new eyes. Things that perhaps are all too familiar for you or have lost their novelty are brand new again to me. I find great joy in this. It affords me the opportunity to get to know you better as you share with me the things that you find near and dear, and vice versa, and to explore the parts of us that reveal the character of the very God we serve. It's truly a beautiful thing.

In my adventures sorting the plethora of files in my office, I discovered the following diagram. At first look, I wasn't quite sure what was before me. It had a lot of Christian buzz words like "baptism," "nativity," "trinity" and "resurrection," but wasn't labeled for anything in particular, but I wondered about the shape, surely, I had seen it before. A quick check in with Kim Croes revealed the purpose- a diagram of the pictures/stories that are depicted in each stained glass frame at the front of the Sanctuary.

Color me surprised- I had no idea that there were images embedded in these gorgeous panes. I had certainly seen the vibrant colors and the movement that the curved lines created, but not images. Upon seeing this diagram, I had to check it out for myself.

The following Sunday, I stared intently at the windows, as if straining for the mystery message in one of those old "magic eye" books of the 90s. And then, I saw it! A chalice! A baptismal font! A creche! It all seemed to come together in a way that it hadn't the last several weeks that I'd been here. I eagerly shared it with my husband Scott as we worked our way from pane to pane. Really...if you haven't already had the chance, or haven't of recent, I encourage you to take in the beauty, detail and intentionality in these images.





After some research in our church files, thanks Kim Croes, we discovered that these windows were installed in 1980 by Judson Studios, with whom we shared the process of design. Our files indicate that families came together to sponsor different windows as the whole church set out to create something beautiful together. The leadership hoped and trusted that this would enhance their worship life for years to come. And it has! We give thanks for these church planners, visionaries and stewards who helped this dream come to fruition and for which we benefit today.

It's amazing how something can change for you in almost an instant. One day, I didn't see it. And the next, I did.

By the time you read this, Lent is nearly over and Holy Week is likely underway. Easter morning brings a moment where all things change for those early disciples. Their teacher, their friend, their Lord- dead and gone just a few days before, and now, resurrected! Death does not have the final word. Everything has changed as life wins. As we experience the "new found grace" of the risen God, I pray that the familiarity of this story would not lessen its impact on you. Try to see with new eyes and experience anew, afresh the Easter message. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

*All I know is we said, "Hello."*

*So dust off your highest hopes*

*All I know is pouring rain and everything has changed*

*All I know is a new found grace*

*All my days I'll know your face*

*All I know since yesterday is everything has changed*

*I just wanna know you better, know you better, know you better now*

*I just wanna know you, know you, know you*

From the song "Everything Has Changed" by Taylor Swift ft. Ed Sheeran

Looking forward to getting to know you better, Christ Lutheran-

Pastor Nikki



## Preschool News

We had our Auction, "A Night of Imagination" on March 8. We had 87 people in attendance. We enjoyed appetizers, cash bar, candy table, chocolate fountain, wine pull (30 bottles), 'mike tv' spin to win game, gumball toss, Violet's blueberries raffle (for \$200 to A PCH Restaurant), golden egg raffle (for Total Wine & More Wine Tasting Class), 63 silent auction items, 14 teacher dates, 6 class projects, 4 live auction items (1st rows at Christmas Program and Graduation, Class Party/Date Night, and Private Concert and Naples Rib BBQ), 'Fund an Item' for a new stove, 50/50 raffle (\$380 to the winner Michelle Tandoc) and we ended with a golden ticket prize. It was a lot of fun! Thank you to our emcee; Jeff Wilson, sponsors; Orellana Nursing Anesthesia Team and Wilson family, 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 \$23,883 with a profit of \$17,120!

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 had registration for current students and siblings for our upcoming Fall session. We will now register people from our waiting list. We also celebrated Easter on Fri 3/29. We had egg hunt followed by a picnic on the yard with families. We closed at 12:30pm and will be closed 4/1-4/5 for Spring Break.

We will celebrate Week of the Young Child April 22nd-26th. We kick off the week with a special Preschool Sunday worship on April 21st. Our theme for the week will be "Celebrating through the Senses". The daily themes will be Music Monday (Sound), Tactile Tuesday (Touch), Wacky Wednesday (Smell), Artsy Thursday (Sight), and Family Friday (Taste). Each day will be full of fun activities like a goop pool, mystery scented playdough, rainbow water xylophone, and more! This is always an exciting and fun week to celebrate young children.

Wishing you a beautiful Spring!

*Lisa Clinton*



## For your calendars...

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17, & 24, Women's Bible Study at 6pm in the Adult Lounge. See ad in this newsletter .

Sunday, April 7, the Worship & Music Committee will have their monthly meeting in the Adult Lounge after worship.

Sunday, April 7, 11am Sunday Education class is [How to handle unwanted emails and Internet Security](#). Join Kim Magee in the conference room with your iPad, Laptop, tablet or phone.

Thursday, April 11, is the OWLs in the Nest Lunch. Join us in the conference room at noon for lunch and good fellowship. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at noon Sons of Norway meets in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and learn about the Norwegian culture.

Also, Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am in the conference room the education committee will have a planning meeting for the Women's retreat all are invited to come share your ideas.

Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am, we will host a Celebration of Life service for former members Margaret and Frank Madsen. The service is followed by a luncheon in the social hall.

Sunday, April 21 We celebrate the Week of the Young Child starting off with a special preschool Sunday.

Sunday, April 21 Sunday Education Class "Living the Beatitudes" begins.

Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>  
DayTimer's LunchBunch  
1130am at Hof's Hut,  
Bellflower Boulevard

## Adult Education Sunday Classes From April to June 2024

- Sunday, April 7** - Managing your e-mail and internet security  
by Kim Magee
- Sunday, April 14** – Women’s Weekend Retreat Planning Session (We still need someone to chair or co-chair this meeting)
- Sunday, April 21** – “Living the Beatitudes” Book Study S1  
Chapters 1 – 3 led by D’Jesus  
(Guest Speakers: Pastor Nikki, Ron Nelson, and Deb Albrecht)
- Sunday, April 28** – History and Meaning of the Labyrinth  
led by Shannon Howard
- Sunday, May 5** – “Living the Beatitudes” Book Study S 2  
Chapters 4 – 6 led by D’Jesus  
(Guest Speakers: Pastor Nikki, Ron Nelson, and Deb Albrecht)
- Sunday, May 26** – “Living the Beatitudes” Book Study S 3  
Chapters 7 - 8 led by D’Jesus  
(Guest Speakers: Pastor Nikki, Ron Nelson, and Deb Albrecht)
- Sunday, June 2** – “Living the Beatitudes” Book Study S 4  
Chapters 9 – 12 led by D’Jesus  
(Guest Speakers: Pastor Nikki, Ron Nelson, and Deb Albrecht)
- Sunday, June 16** – “Living the Beatitudes” Book Study S 5  
Chapters 13 – 15 led by D’Jesus  
(Guest Speakers: Pastor Nikki, Ron Nelson, and Deb Albrecht)

# Living the Beatitudes

*The Way to a Most Excellent Life*

Discernment Instead  
of Judgement

Correction instead  
of Punishment



Religion and  
Enigmas

Be Kind  
To Everyone

Cultural change expert Gary L. Engstrom presents strategies that free you from the oppressive tendencies that have corrupted our culture, thus allowing you to simplify your life.

In *Living the Beatitudes*, you learn to:

- Identify and replace divisive behaviors (judging and punishing) with **uniting behaviors** (discerning and correcting).
- Replace energy-wasting and self-destructive negative emotions with the uplifting, healing and freeing emotions of **forgiveness and mercy**.
- Free yourself from self-limiting beliefs that close you off from others and God, to **expansive beliefs** that open you up to others and God.
- Claim your uniqueness** and cherish the God-given uniqueness of others.
- Unify** with others in a patchwork of diversity to accomplish great things!

Living the Beatitudes helps you navigate life in communion with others; "Hey, life is difficult, let's help each other out!"



*Dear Friends at Christ Lutheran Church in Long Beach,*

*I wanted to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your support of our Annual Easter Celebration this past weekend.*

*Despite the rainy weather, families began arriving as early as 9 am, eager to participate in our event scheduled to start at 10 am. Witnessing the dedication of these families, braving the rain to attend our celebration, was truly inspiring for our entire team of staff and volunteers.*

*In light of the weather conditions, we made the decision to modify the event, ensuring the safety and comfort of our guests. Regrettably, we had to cancel the arts and crafts activities and the bouncy house for the children due to safety concerns.*

*We provided lunch, goodie bags, groceries, hygiene kits, and Northgate Market gift cards to go, ensuring that the spirit of Easter and community support remained strong despite the challenges.*

*Thanks to your financial contributions and volunteers (Ron Nelson, Steve Howard, Andrea Joseph, DJ Trujillo, & Claudia Fitzpatrick) who assisted us with sorting and preparing Easter goodie bags, we were able to assist 55 families during this event, providing them with essential resources and a sense of community during these challenging times.*

*Your commitment to our mission makes events like these possible, and we are truly grateful for your partnership. Together, we are making a positive impact in the lives of families in our community.*

*Once again, thank you for your generosity and support. We look forward to continuing our work together and making a difference in the lives of those we serve.*

*Happy Palm*



**Members at Home or in Care Centers:** Laurie Ennen, Ione Marchael, Sydney Nichols, and Frances Willms.

**Those struggling with illness or other concerns:** Don Darnauer, Judy Haenn, Shannon Howard, Daniel Howard, Chris and Sheryl Hunter, Kathy Klute-Nelson, Karen Koch, Jeff Rodrigues, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Kristine Trost, Kurt Weisel, Rich Williams, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.

**\*Family & Friends:** Carolina, Chad, Barrett, Michael, Noah, Lois Brown, Zach Burkard, Charlie and David Corm, Mary Croes, Denise Davis, Tamara Fitzgerald, Brechin Flournoy, Barbara, Gina Barvy-Fournier, Daryl, Cindy Gray, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Sue Lance, Ronda Lynn, Farnaz Perl, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Sharry Reed, Tom Sievers, Christine Storm, Von, Vicki Thompson, Paul Valenzuela, and Jessica 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, Johnny Luna, Jim Reeder, Steven, Brina and Michael Navarro.



4/21 Linda and Gary Zimmerman



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

# By Heart

## Do you like to Sing?



Please join us to sing just for fun. Lots of old, familiar songs will ring out. No experience or expertise is necessary. All levels welcome!

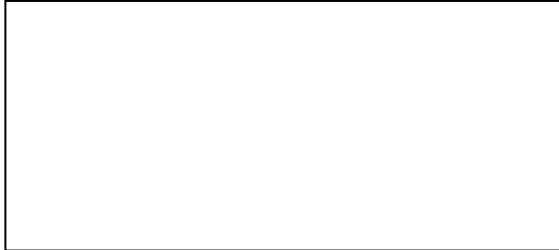
Piano by Karla Devine

**Wednesdays**  
**4pm**  
**Starting March 1**

**St Timothy Lutheran  
Church**  
**4645 Woodruff Ave.**  
**Lakewood  
Choir Room**

**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](http://www.christlutheranlb.com)

[email:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com)

**Please join us in person for Sunday  
 Worship 9:30am  
 Live on FB or later on YouTube  
 Channel**



Be sure to LIKE us on Facebook.

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