



Vol. 67 Issue 2, March 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Several years ago, our former Southwest California Synodical Bishop, Dr. R. Guy Erwin, wrote, "Our faith is death-defying: it takes death seriously and faces it unflinchingly." This really resonates through the season of Lent. Lent is the season of the church year where we immerse our whole selves in the ultimate reality of our human death and all the other "little deaths" around us. But this season is also a time when we cannot shed the reality of the resurrected life we are living – right here, right now. Jesus' experience of life, death, and resurrection is always with us. And sometimes it seems we focus mostly on Jesus' life and celebrate His resurrection. During the season of Lent, we focus closer on Jesus' death and the impact that has on our faith and our lives. As Lutherans, we do not turn away from death or loss in any form – even when it is uncomfortable to face or acknowledge.

In Sunday morning worship during this Lenten season, together we will publicly confess to God; *"we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we chose fear over compassion."* (Sundays and Seasons, 2022-23, p. 104) How often we act or re-act out of anxiety and dread because of what is going on in the world today? How often we forget or ignore how God has acted in the past, and think we must be able to do it better? Let us recognize those dark places in our lives this Lenten season. Let us take the "little deaths" seriously, whether it be a grief, a loss or just facing our own limitations. Now is that time.

Sometimes "change" in the life of a faith community, like that of an interim time between permanent pastors, can feel like a "little death". Whether it be grief over a beloved former pastor, or anxiety about what will happen to "my church", or a difference in the way things have always been done – that adjustment period can be hard. That is why we take this time seriously and do not shy away from the work necessary to move forward. I have been so encouraged by those of you who have stepped forward in courage and hope to participate in the good (and hard) work necessary to call a permanent pastor to Christ Lutheran Church. I am also inspired by those you have come forward to fill the needs of the church – worship, outreach, administration, stewardship, connection. What a terrific witness to the assurance that God has not abandoned us! What a wonderful reminder of God's promise to be with us on our journey! (Continued on next page.)

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I encourage all of us to look for ways we can practice our faith in God in "death-defying" ways. If we open our eyes and ears and hearts and hands trusting in the promise of God through Jesus Christ, we move forward not in fear, but in hope. Let it be so.

Blessings to you,

Pastor Laurie Arroyo, Interim Pastor



Preschool News

February flew by! We had a wonderful Special Person Day where just about every child had a Special Person! For Valentine's Day, the classrooms each had their own parties to celebrate.



In the month of March we will have our auction entitled, "Boots &Bling...It's A Country Thing" which will be on Friday, March 10th at 6pm at The Grand. Feel free to wear country chic and have a fun night out while



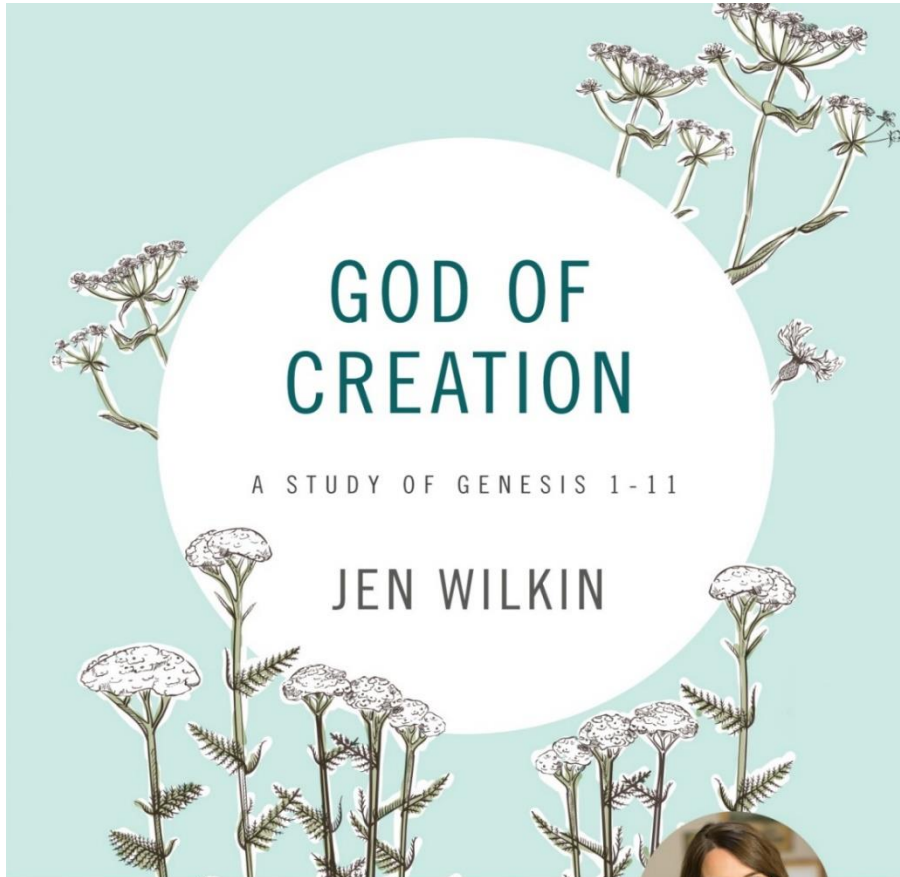
supporting CLP! We will have silent auction items, a Horseshoe pull game and wine pull. Dinner will be BBQ Beef Brisket, Mac 'n cheese, corn on the cob, Cobb salad, and apple crisp for dessert. We will have music playing during dinner and people are welcome to do a little line dancing. After dinner, we will then have our 50/50 raffle, live auction, and fund an item. Tickets are \$50 each. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 3rd. During the rest of March, we will have fun with the children's imaginations while we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Then, the last two weeks we will have parent teacher conferences and Registration for our upcoming summer and fall sessions.



Wishing you a beautiful Spring!
Lisa Clinton



Christ Lutheran Church, Long Beach
Wednesdays at 6:30pm march 1-May 24*
(No meetings 4/4 & 4/12)



It all began with the Word.

Join us if you want to:

- Discover what the Bible says about God, His character, and attributes.
- Learn to love God with your mind as well as your heart through intentional study.
- Challenge your basic understanding of familiar stories through three critical stages of understanding: comprehension, interpretation, and application.
- Gain knowledge of yourself by first understanding God as He has revealed Himself through Scripture.

Watercolors

with Deb Albrecht

Wednesdays at 4pm

March 1-29, 2023

Christ Lutheran Church, Long Beach

During the 5 weeks in March Deb will walk you through watercolor painting techniques. Your skills will be used to create a watercolor painted Easter greeting card to send to shut-ins and people in need. The class is limited to 10 people. Sign up early.

Register Now!

google form

Name: _____

email: _____

Phone: _____



March and April Church in Society Giving Focus Organizations

March COA Meal Watch for clip boards coming around so that you can sign up to donate food or paper goods for the meal on Wednesday, March 29. Please also consider signing up to help prepare and/or serve the meal.

April Joanie's Purse If you're in a spring cleaning mood, save the large to medium size purses you have enjoyed and are ready to share with someone else. We also collect small hygiene and gift items that we can put into these purses that are then given out to women transitioning from shelters into independent living situations. There will be a bulletin insert coming soon.



If you are a Ralph's Shopper, please add Christ Lutheran to the Community Programs partnership attached to your Ralph's card. We received donations totaling **\$365.98**

from just 14 households last year.

We also receive contributions from **Amazon Smile** if you designate Christ Lutheran as the charity of choice for eligible purchases. We have received **\$718.11 since we began participating in this program.** Thanks so much. (We have been notified that this program will be discontinued in February. Until then, we are still receiving credit for Amazon Smile purchases.)





Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches. CLC

received **\$2176.00** last year. Thank you to church members who have selected CLC to receive these charitable gifts. Ask your Thrivent rep for details.

Sunday, March 5th

Lenten Soup Lunch

Immediately following worship

Thursday, March 9th

***OWLs (Obviously Wise**

Lutherans) will meet at 12:00 noon in the Social Hall. Bring a side dish to share. *Note the name change from 'Older' to 'Obviously'.

Saturday, March 11th

Sons of Norway will meet at noon. Everyone is welcome to come and learn about the Norwegian culture.

Change your clocks to one hour ahead on Saturday, Mar. 11- Don't Be Late For Church.

Sunday, March 12th

Lenten Soup Lunch

Immediately following worship

Sunday, March 19th

Lenten Soup Lunch

Immediately following worship



Sunday, March 26th

Lenten Soup Lunch

Immediately following worship

Tuesday, March 28th

Daytimer's LunchBunch will meet at 11:30am at Hof's Hut on Bellflower Blvd in Los Altos.

**Sundays, March 5,12,19,26
Holy Communion/Baptism
Classes**

11:30am in the Sanctuary



Members at Home or in Care

Centers: Justin Bartlow, Laurie Ennen, Ione Marchael, Sydney Nichols, Don Westerhoff, and Frances Willms.

Those struggling with illness or other concerns:

Don Darnauer, Judy Haenn, Daniel Howard, Karen Koch, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Kurt Weisel, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.

Family & Friends: Michael, Noah, Marylyn, Terry, Cheryl, Lois Brown, Zach Burkard, Byron, John Caldwell, Scott Carr, Charlie and David Corm, Mary Croes, Glenn Darnauer, Tamara Fitzgerald, Brechin Flournoy, Alberta Gray, Cindy Gray, Evie Holdhusen, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Doris Jung, Jeff and Cindy, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Sue Lance, Lainie and Beau, Paula Pettit, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Emily Renton, Cindy, Mary Kathryn Rivera, Vicki Thompson, Jessica, and Jenny West.

We pray for the ongoing work of:

- + Christ Lutheran's Pastoral Call Committee
- + 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.



- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 3/1 | Shaun Murray |
| 3/2 | Derek Johnson |
| 3/3 | Doug Holdhusen |
| 3/5 | Frances Willms |
| 3/11 | Jameson Stamer |
| 3/12 | Chris Caldwell |
| 3/14 | Brian Trost |
| 3/16 | Steven Howard |
| 3/21 | Linda Gawthorne |
| 3/22 | Ken Petrbock |
| 3/27 | Stefan Joseph |
| 3/28 | Garrett McGee |
| 3/30 | Ingrid Fuelleman-Ramos |

Christ Lutheran Church
6500 Stearns Street
Long Beach, CA 90815-3497

Return Service Requested



Mission Statement:

Christ Is Alive!

Vision Statement:

Christ Lutheran Church is a community of believers committed to praising our Savior Jesus Christ. With His love, we reach out to those in need and welcome all with open hearts. Our worship dynamically combines word, song and prayer to share God's incredible message. Having faith in this, we go forth knowing that with God and the power of the Holy Spirit, anything is possible.

April Newsletter Deadline:

March 15

Life In Christ
Is the newsletter of

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Long Beach, CA 90815-3497

- 562.598.2433
- www.christlutheranlb.com
- email: 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.
[facebook.com/christlutheranlb](https://www.facebook.com/christlutheranlb)