



Life in Christ, Vol. 68 Issue 5 May, 2024

In Preschool Chapel last week, we sang a song called, “The More We Get Together.” It was a familiar one to me, but since my arrival at Christ Lutheran, we hadn’t yet sang it together. And so we sang, just as I remembered from my childhood:

The more we get together

Together, together

The more we get together

The happier we'll be

'Cause your friends are my friends

And my friends are your friends

The more we get together

The happier we'll be

But then Mrs. Fitz introduced a new verse, and it went like this:

*The more we **pray** together*

Together, together

*The more we **pray** together*

The happier we'll be

*'Cause your **prayers** are my **prayers***

*And my **prayers** are your **prayers***

*The more we **pray** together*

The happier we'll be



And this just floored me. It was such a simple melody, but had a deeply profound message. It was enough to make me stop in my tracks for a second. What a beautiful message to share with these young ones about what it means to be

community, particularly in the body of Christ. Being God's people is about being together- in worship, in fellowship, in community, in service- but also in prayer. We do this as we strive to emulate Jesus' Emmanuel, "God with us," by being with one another.

On my first Sunday at Christ Lutheran, I was surprised by the prayers of the church. Not surprised that they were included, but rather the length of time you spent dedicated to this practice. It was and is more so than I've seen in previous places I've worshipped or served, and it has prompted me to pay attention. What exactly are we praying for? And for whom are we praying? What significance does it hold in our worship life together?



Did you know? The prayers for each Sunday are made available through a church resource called Sundays and Seasons. Churches across the ELCA that use this resource are lifting up the same prayers each week, no matter their location. In this way, our prayers are magnified.

Did you know? Our prayers are edited and adapted for our congregation by church member, Rich Oelschlaeger. He has been preparing our prayers weekly as a volunteer for 10+ years! Rich incorporates the names of those on our prayer chain, whether church family or loved ones that are dealing with illness, are homebound or in care facilities, as well as those who are serving as first responders, in the peace and diplomatic corps and in our nation's military. In addition, Rich adds a prayer for Linda Gawthorne, our partner in ministry serving as a missionary working with the Kogi people in Colombia.



Did you know? We offer special prayers once a month for leaders and organizations to which we are affiliated and working in collaboration and support. They are scheduled as follows:

1st week

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Brenda Bos, Pastors, Deacons, and elected leaders of our church.

2nd week

Christ Lutheran Preschool, our Lutheran universities
and seminaries and all schools of our church.

3rd week

Lutheran Social Services, Christian Outreach in
Action, New Life Beginning.

4th week

Congregations of the Greater Long Beach Conference.

5th week

Lutheran Maritime Ministries, Habitat 4 Humanity,
California Lutheran Homes.

With all those things to pray for, no wonder that this takes a few minutes.

I heard a church member recall once that a visitor commented on the practice
observed here and that they saw that as a mark of folks taking Christianity seriously-
willing to spend time doing something important.

And what a thing to be known for! And we are certainly richer for it.

Indeed, we are a church family who prays together. Because

...your prayers are my prayers

and my prayers are your prayers...

Praying with and for you-

Pastor Nikki





Preschool News

In April we celebrated Week Of the Young Child. We had fun activities each day to celebrate children and all the wonders they bring to us. The courtyard had displays of children's artwork and documentation boards showing how children learn through play.

Our Theme for the week was "Celebrating with our Senses". Music Monday(Hearing), Tactile Tuesday (Touch), Wacky Wednesday (Smell), Artsy Thursday (Sight), and Family Friday (Taste). Some of the fun activities included matching sounds, rainbow water xylophone, feely walk, water bead pool, spice painting, and fizzy ice cubes.

We kicked off the week with a special Preschool Sunday. Music Makers sang at church and we had rock painting for our Kindness Garden, as well as a Bake Sale (to raise money for a new oven and stove for the kitchen) following the service. On Friday, we concluded the week with an afternoon family Tea Time. This is always a busy and very fun week of celebrating! We are especially grateful for the planning done by Ms. Theriault, the extra work the teachers do for this week with art displays and documentation boards, as well as the parent's support through donations and volunteering.

The week of April 29th, will be *Teacher Appreciation* week.

On May 10th we will celebrate the blessing of mothers with *Moms and Muffins* in the courtyard at drop off time.

May 17th the staff will have a *Staff Development* day.

Finally, May 20 & 21, we will have *Elks Vision Screening* come in to test the children's eyes for free.

Blessings for a beautiful month!
Lisa Clinton

For your calendars...

Sunday Education “Living the Beatitudes” continues this month. See the schedule on the next page.

Sunday, May 5, the Worship & Music Committee will have their monthly meeting in the Adult Lounge after worship.

Thursday, May 9, 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, May 11th at noon Sons of Norway meets in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and learn about the Norwegian culture.

Sunday, May 12th, Chris Untiet from Habitat for Humanity visits with us.

Sunday, May 19th at 11am is our next Congregation meeting. Come to the social hall following worship to hear a financial report and other news from your church council.

Tuesday, May 28th
DayTimer's LunchBunch
1130am at Hof's Hut,
Bellflower Boulevard

Wednesday, May 29th we prepare and serve dinner at Christian Outreach in Action (COA).

May 31 through June 1 is the SoCal Synod Assembly.

Calling all CLC members graduating from High School, College with associate, bachelor, master's degrees, or PHDs...

Whether you graduated last winter or this spring, let us know so that we can celebrate and bless your accomplishment on Sunday, June 2nd.

Adult Education Sunday Classes From May to June 2024

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

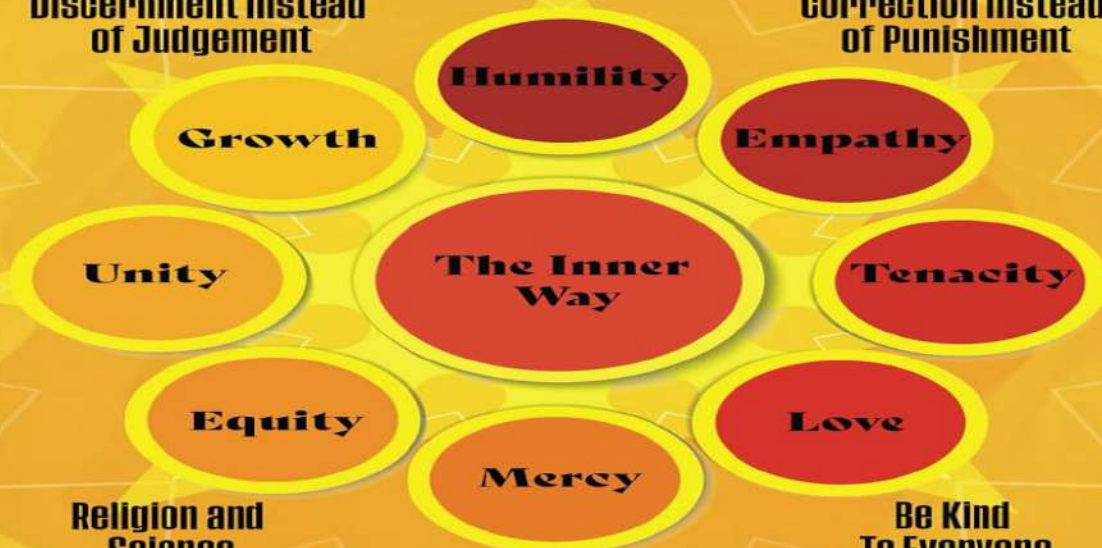
(Guest Speakers: Pastor Nikki, Ron Nelson,
and Deb Albrecht)

Living the Beatitudes

The Way to a Most Excellent Life

Discernment Instead
of Judgement

Correction instead
of Punishment



Religion and
Colonies

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!"

Stewardship is not just about treasures; it is also about time and talent.

If you have ever considered getting involved in one of the many ministries at Christ Lutheran, and maybe don't have a lot of spare time, perhaps one of our featured ministries would be a good fit for you. Additional helping hands are always valued and appreciated.

Over the coming months, we are going to be highlighting different ministries at Christ Lutheran Church, sharing a little about the role and who to contact for additional information. We begin with the ministries of Assisting Minister and Altar Guild. Below is a brief summary of both roles.

Assisting Minister

An Assisting Minister is a volunteer member of Christ Lutheran Church who helps to lead the congregation during certain parts of our worship service. The Assisting Minister follows a script, which most often includes the recital of the Apostles' or Nicene Creed, reading the prayers of the church, and serving communion. It is also the Assisting Minister who dismisses the congregation at the end of worship by calling out "Go in peace and serve the Lord" or another similar phrase. If this interests you, please contact Robin Black at robinwow3@gmail.com.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild helps prepare the Sanctuary for worship services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Holy Communion, and helps decorate the sanctuary for the many different church seasons. Additionally, the Altar Guild members care for the altar and its furnishings and linens and perform any other necessary duties to prepare the sanctuary for worship.

If you would like to help with these duties, please contact Stephanie Petrbok, spetrbok@hotmail.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE BEST KIND PEOPLE



MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

JOIN WITH US!

WWW.COALONGBEACH.ORG/VOLUNTEER

Open this hyperlink for opportunities.

[Special Event Volunteers Needed \(coalongbeach.org\)](http://SpecialEventVolunteersNeeded(coalongbeach.org))

Or call COA at (562)432-1440



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

+ Those serving in our nation's Military, especially Samuel Brown, Ryan Dorris, Morgan Llewellyn, Johnny Luna, Jim Reeder, Steven, Brina and Michael Navarro.

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:** Barbara, Noah, Carolina, Lois Brown, Jeff Chan, Charlie and David Corm, Mary Croes, Denise Davis, Brechin Flournoy, Cindy Gray, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Bryan Koenen, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Sue Lance, Eric, Tim & Mimi Philips, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Sharry Reed, Debra Sarvela, Marlene Shafer, Vicki Thompson, 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



5/7 Kristina and Rob Randig

5/21 Renu and Marv Moon



5/2 Rob McGee

5/8 Katelyn Ramos

5/11 Ron Nelson

5/12 Chris Hunter

5/18 Rich Oelschlaeger

5/23 Elisabeth Jenkins

5/31 Scott Moon

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	St Timothy Lutheran Church
4pm	4645 Woodruff Ave.
Starting March 1	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!

June Newsletter Deadline:
 May 15

Life In Christ

Is the newsletter of

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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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