



Life in Christ, Vol. 68 Issue 6 June, 2024



Happy Pride, Christ Lutheran! June is a nationally recognized month where we celebrate and lift up LGBTQ+ Pride and all the varied gifts, experiences, and voices that our LGBTQ+ siblings bring to our world and our communities.

As a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, since 2009!, we rejoice in this opportunity to surround our LGBTQ+ siblings with love and support.

Pride Month is also a great time to advocate for the ongoing inclusion, equal opportunity, and justice for the LGBTQ+ community. This involves paying attention- to the issues that matter most to members of this community, inviting others into “the know,” and offering our support financially, and in word and deed towards these causes.

So here’s something you should know:

On May 1, 2024, the United Methodist General Conference voted to remove the United Methodist Church’s ban on the ordination of “self-avowed practicing” LGBTQ+ clergy. And on May 2, 2024, they voted to eliminate in the denomination’s Social Principles that “the practice of homosexuality... is incompatible with Christian teaching.”

These are historic votes and results to come out of the United Methodist Church and represent a move towards greater support, inclusion, and affirmation of LGBTQ+ individuals of the Methodist denomination. The General Conference would be akin to our Churchwide Assembly and is a meeting of representatives from all the congregations to do the business of the church and make decisions as a denominational body. The decisions out of May 1st and 2nd reportedly overturn long-held positions going back to 1972 and 1984.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), of which our congregation is a part, voted in a similar historical fashion in 2009, where the Churchwide Assembly voted, “to open the ministry of the church to gay and lesbian [now more appropriately, LGBTQ+] pastors and other professional workers living in committed relationships.” The 2009 Assembly voted to adopt a new Social Statement, entitled, “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,” which had widespread reflections on sexuality as a whole, including, but not limited to that of LGBTQ+ persons. In addition,

“...the assembly also approved a resolution committing the church to find ways for congregations that choose to do so to ‘recognize, support and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same gender relationships’...The actions here change the church's policy, which previously allowed gays and lesbians into the ordained ministry only if they remained celibate.”

As a seminarian in 2009, I remember feeling this impact pretty readily at the seminary as the seminary supported those that were serving in congregations for internships at a time of historic doctrinal change. I remember knowing that this decision was deeply contentious and troubling for some. And still for others was long overdue and in keeping with a Lutheran understanding of the Bible and where God's heart would be.

My heart goes out to the United Methodist Church's members, leadership, and governing bodies as they navigate this important time of transition. I invite you to join me in praying for them, for next steps, for compassion and understanding for one another, and intentionality around welcome, inclusion, and celebration of our LGBTQ+ siblings. And I also invite you to join me in praying for all LGBTQ+ folks and particularly those connected to the Methodist church that they would feel the whole-hearted warmth of their Godly belovedness and the support in word and deed of their siblings of faith.

Mountain Sky Area Bishop Karen Oliveto, the UMC's first openly gay and married bishop, said,

"Today, we celebrate this historic vote," she said. "Tomorrow, we will continue to work together. To learn from one another. To stand with one another. To continue to widen the circle so that those on the margins of church and society can find a home."

"Draw the Circle Wide"

Chorus:

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide...

Verse:

Let the dreams we dream be larger

Than we've ever dreamed before

Let the dream of Christ be in us

Open every door!

Quotes taken from UMNews:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/40-year-ban-on-gay-clergy-struck-down>

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/may-2-wrap-up-delegates-declare-homosexuality-no-longer-incompatible>

More info can be found here from ELCA Churchwide:

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/6587> <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/6568>



Preschool News

The last week of April/first week of May we had teacher appreciation week. The parents brought in special treats/presents each day for the staff. It is an honor and privilege to care for their children and we are blessed to have such generous and supportive families at CLP!

On Friday, May 10th, we celebrated Mother's Day with our Moms & Muffins event. Moms and their children enjoyed breakfast and fun activities that included giving mom a massage, making a coupon book, and book marks.

May 20 & 21, we were able to offer free vision screenings through the Elks club. This is a great resource that allows us to catch potential vision issues early on.

In June, we will wrap up our school year. We will celebrate Dads & Donuts on Friday, June 7th. We will have breakfast and activities for the Dads to do with their child at drop off.

Our school year will come to an end on Tues, June 18th. We will honor our friends that are going to Kindergarten with a special graduation ceremony just for them at 10:30am in the Sanctuary. Then we will celebrate everyone at our End of Year Program in the Social Hall at 11:30am. We will have cake on the yard and school will close at 12:30pm.

We will be closed for Juneteenth on 6/19 and closed for staff work days on 6/20 & 6/21 to prepare for our summer session which will start on Mon 6/24.

Our theme for summer will be "Habitats and Terrains". Our weekly themes will include: Jungle, Sky, Arctic, Desert, Ocean, Meadow and Mountain. Our last day of summer session will be on 8/16.

Blessings for a beautiful month!
Lisa Clinton

For your calendars...

Sunday Education “Living the Beatitudes” continues this month on Sunday June 2nd and 16th.

Sunday, June 2nd, we will be blessing and celebrating our graduates both in worship and on the patio after worship. The Worship & Music Committee will have their monthly meeting in the Founder’s Lounge and the Beatitudes class will be in the conference room after worship.

Wednesday, June 5th the Property Committee will meet in the conference room at 5pm.

Saturday, June 8th at noon Sons of Norway meets in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and learn about the Norwegian culture.

Sunday, June 9th, Habitat for Humanity is hosting the “Raise the Roof” Fundraiser which is a premier wine tasting event.

The Education Committee is meeting on the 9th in the Conference Room at 11am.

Thursday, June 13th, 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.

Tuesday, June 25th DayTimer’s LunchBunch 1130am at Hof’s Hut, Bellflower Boulevard

Sunday, June 30th at 11am is Worship & Music Committee meeting in the Founder’s Lounge.

A note from the Financial Treasurer...

Did you know that many of our members arrange for their financial contributions to be made through our electronic giving program? This program, known as Simply Giving, allows for members to have their contributions made directly from their checking or savings account.

Not only does Simply Giving make giving to CLC easier for you, it also makes life much easier for our weekly volunteer Counters, and our Treasurer. If this program sounds like something you'd be interested in, please reach out to me at church or by email: mattatkei@aol.com. I can get you set up in a matter of minutes.

Thank you. Matt Green

Another word from Stewardship:

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 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. Below is a brief summary of the duties of Sunday Greeters.



Greeter Job Description

A Greeter is a volunteer member of Christ Lutheran Church who welcomes the congregation and guests while coming into the church and foyer areas before the worship service. The Greeter is warm and friendly, yet perceptive of each person's differing comfort levels. If this interests you, please contact Robin Black at robinwow3@gmail.com



*Christ Lutheran joyously
sends these people forth
with God's blessing to do
good things!*

Ben Elliott is graduating from Millikan High School this month. During his time at Millikan, Ben played on the varsity basketball team. His plans for the summer will keep him busy: he'll be working, vacationing in Yosemite with his family, honing his video game skills and of course, playing lots of basketball. While doing all of this, Ben will be preparing to start the fall semester at California State University, Long Beach.

Maggie Fitzpatrick in her own words, "After two long and intensive years, I have finally graduated with my master's in early childhood education from California State University, Long Beach. Through many research assignments, parent workshops, curriculum planning and advocacy projects, endless reading of articles, completing an intensive comprehensive exit exam, and many more requirements of the courses, I graduated on May 19th at Angels Stadium. I will continue to work at Christ Lutheran Preschool for the time being. I absolutely love being in the preschool classroom and am excited to implement many of the ideas from my coursework from the past two years."

Stephanie Murray received her single subject credential in social science from California State University, Long beach. She was a student teacher of 8th grade history at Warner Middle School and loved it. Stephanie's goal is to become a middle school teacher.

Brianna Peralta just received a Master of Business and Professional Communications degree from Bellevue University. While working to complete this stage of her education Brianna was also a Campus Attractions Lead and Trainer at Disney's California Adventure. In Nov 2023, she moved to a new role as a Guest Correspondence Associate supporting the Disneyland Resorts in California and Hawaii. Brianna will continue to work for the Disney Company for the foreseeable future but her most exciting moments will come while she's wedding planning! Brianna recently became engaged to Brad Croes, one of CLC's long time members and A/V technicians. Congrats to Brad and Bree.

Hannah Rodrigues is graduating from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Architecture and a minor in Urban Sustainable Planning. At USC, she served as a member and Vice-President of Alpha Rho Chi, USC's professional architecture fraternity, and has been awarded Global Scholar Distinction for her design work completed while studying abroad in Barcelona last spring. This summer, she plans to take some time to relax with friends and family and will stay in Los Angeles to begin working at an architecture firm while studying for licensing exams to become a licensed architect.

Annette Rodrigues In December of 2023, Annette graduated from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) with a Master of Science degree in Gerontology. Annette also holds a bachelor's degree in human development and a certificate in gerontology. During the course of study, Annette earned the certifications of Certified Montessori Dementia Care Professional (CMDCP) and Certified RCFE (Residential Care Facility for the Elderly) Administrator. She is excited to share the news that her handbook, *Montessori-Based Activities for Alzheimer's and Dementia: Handbook for Implementing Activities in an Adult Day Care Program*, has been recently published and is available at Barnes & Noble. This handbook is a result of her Thesis Directed Research Project for the MSG program at Cal State University, Long Beach. She is also pleased to share that the handbook has been awarded the Outstanding Graduate Project award for 2023-2024 by the CSULB College of Health and Human Services. (cont.)

Annette recently began working at the CSULB Research Foundation as the Program Manager for the Center for Successful Aging. With a background in gerontology and a diverse set of skills and experiences, Annette brings a unique perspective to her work at the Center, allowing her to provide valuable insights and effective solutions for diverse older adult populations. As Program Manager, she is committed to supporting students, faculty, and community organizations to deepen their understanding of aging and address the challenges that face the aging population. As an alumna of CSULB with a strong appreciation for education and research, Annette is particularly dedicated to working with students in a variety of academic disciplines with the intent to equip the future workforce with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively engage and assist the older adult population.

Annette would like to thank her family. Their support and encouragement of her educational goals as she returned to school have been both unwavering and inspiring. A special word of acknowledgment and gratitude to her husband, a man who has always been by her side supporting her in any way that he can so that she may fulfill her own goals and dreams.



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://Special%20Event%20Volunteers%20Needed%20(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 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, Sherri and Bob Anderson, Lois Brown, Jeff Chan, Charlie and David Corm, Mary Croes, Denise Davis, Brechin Flournoy, Tamra Fitzgerald, Audrey Hill, 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, Kathy Vonbuskirk, 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.



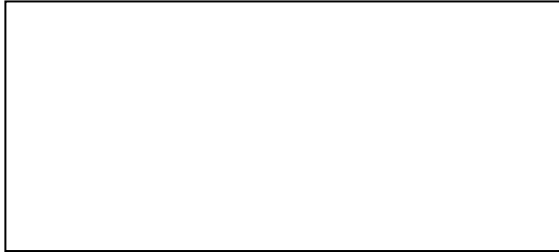
6/3 Andrea and Mike Joseph
6/19 Revs. Nikki and Scott Fielder



6/3 Maggie Fitzpatrick
6/4 Kristina Randig
6/8 Kim Croes
6/10 Roger Halvorson
6/16 Kai Flournoy
6/17 Parker Treat
6/22 Faith Timney
6/25 Cathy Westwood
6/27 Rick McGee
6/28 Mike Joseph
6/30 Laura Innes

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!

July Newsletter Deadline:
 June 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



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