



Life in Christ, Vol. 69 Issue 7 July, 2025



From the desk of Bishop Brenda Bos:

What does it mean to be a Lutheran in Southern California?

First and foremost, to be Lutheran means to be Christian. We believe and wish to live out the words of the Apostles creed, believing in God the creator, Jesus the Savior and the Holy Spirit, God's gift to the church to bring us together in love with God, each other and this world.



Second, to be Lutheran means to understand that God does everything, we can do nothing without God. Instead of believing somehow we can do enough right things to impress God, we humbly admit God loves us first, reconciles with us first, offers the Holy Spirit to us first, and then, because we are loved, we have the ability to love others.

As Ephesians 2:4-5 says, "God, who is rich in mercy, loved us, even when we were dead to sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace, you have been saved." Lutherans rely entirely on God's grace, this gift which was given to us to make us whole.

To be a Lutheran in Southern California means to take this love of God, a powerful healing gift, and share it with our diverse neighbors. Southern Californians live with the enormous privilege of good weather and easy transportation. We have a good economy and various ways to earn a living and an education. We have access to health care and services. This does not mean everyone has access to everything. But there are options available, and as Christians answering a call to love our

neighbors generously, we work to connect those without services to meet their basic needs.

We are connected to the land, the ocean and the mountains in ways many other regions of the country cannot. We have a serious need to love and care for our resources and environment.

We also have a diversity of language and national origin. We hear a variety of languages spoken on our playgrounds, in our grocery stores and at our sporting events. Our congregations need to live among this diversity, bringing love and curiosity to the richness of our environment.



It is expensive to live in this part of the country, so we also need to work toward economic equity and reality. Many of our congregations cannot afford full-time pastors, so to be Lutheran in Southern California means lay leaders may need to take significant leadership roles. This provides yet another opportunity for diversity and growth.

Because of these realities, our synod is engaged with immigration issues, educational offerings and LGBTQ support. We lift up lay leaders and invite a wide variety of people to our tables, both the tables of Holy Communion, lunch tables and conference meeting tables. We experience God's abundance in this place, and strive to share it, with God's help, in everything we do.

What does it mean to you to be Lutheran in Southern California?



Preschool News

In June we celebrated Father's day early on Friday, 6/6 with Dads and Donuts. We enjoyed breakfast and activities that included making paper ties, a bean bag toss and tic tac toe game.

We ended another year of Growing in God's Love on Wednesday, June 18th with our End of Year Program that included a Kindergarten Send Off for those going to Kindergarten. Our teachers then worked hard during our two staff work days to get everything cleaned and switched over for our summer session. Our "Adventure Explorers: A Summer of Wonder" began on June 24th.

Our theme for summer is "Adventure Explorers: A Summer of Wonder". Our weekly themes will include: Time Travelers: Adventures through History, Mission to Imagination: Space & Beyond, Backpack to the Wild: Nature Explorers, Ocean Commotion: Under the Sea, God's Creation, Our Awesome World: Community Helpers, Make Believe & Magic: Fairy Tales and Fantasy, and Super You!: Celebrate Our Summer. We will participate in the Church VBS the week of July 21st.

Special Guests will include: Dino Adventure, a Magician, Cabrillo Aquarium, Petting Zoo, the Tooth Fairy, a Police Car, Construction Worker, Marionettes, Librarian, and a Bounce House. We will also have a Guest Reader each week to read to all of the children out on the playground. Parents as well as Church members are welcome to sign up to be a Guest Reader. We will continue having Chapel throughout the summer and will do it outside on the Labyrinth if weather permits.

Looking forward to a fun-filled summer,

Lisa Clinton

Vacation Bible School

“God’s Good Creation”

July 21-25, 2024

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - Noon

Christ Lutheran Church 6500 E. Stearns St.

Long Beach, CA 90815

(South side of Stearns St. between Palo Verde & Studebaker)

VBS is a time of worship, crafts,

Bible Stories, fun, & games

For youth 4 yrs. - completed 5th grade.

Youth volunteers (6th grade through high school) welcome

Cost: \$25 child, \$20 additional siblings

This program is directed by members of Christ Lutheran Church

Please use separate forms for each child, extra registration forms available in the church office

Church office - 562.598.2433

Registration Forms can be found by following this link:

https://na4.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAABLblqZhAkJTG0ixseZSwBNpdI-wDb8vTB95UEwFjgINvJe7FaF45hXTI1FwVb17EqaqYM*





Exploring Sacred Spaces: SIKH TEMPLE



SCIC's Exploring Sacred Spaces program invites members of the interfaith community in 2025 to visit two different churches, a mosque (Islamic Center), a synagogue, Jain temple, Sikh temple, and Native American sacred land.



Each visit to these sacred spaces where people pray, worship, engage in religious practices and celebrate life's events will be more than a 'tour' or 'open house'; it will be an experience. Participants will be invited to listen, learn, and connect with one another. Each visit will contain specific elements: an architectural tour of the space, an introduction to the religion, a sharing from members, a dialogue or a shared activity, and sharing snacks together.



The Exploring Sacred Space program is designed to deepen understanding of one another to ultimately build trust, generate goodwill, and foster a greater sense of community together.

Where: Sikh Center of Orange County
2514 W. Warner Avenue, Santa Ana, CA, 92704-5041

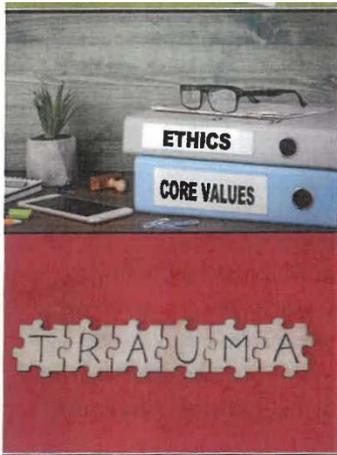
When: Sunday, August 24, 3pm

To Register:
Call 562-983-1665 or Email Office@scinterfaith.org



CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS SERIES

Please note dates are subject to change with advanced notice.



**Sunday,
July 27**

**Critical Conversations 2:
The Ethics of Disagreement**
Time: 3-5pm
Location: TBA

**Sunday,
August 17**

**Critical Conversations 3:
Israelis & Palestinians Living with
Continuous Trauma: What They
Wish We Understood**
Time: 3-5pm
Location: TBA

Stewardship Monthly Focus—Property Committee

The Property Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month and is focused on maintaining and improving the CLC campus. The committee consists of Kim Croes, Doug Holdhusen, Greg Koch, Marvin Moon, Gary Thoen, and Kurt Weisel. Gary and Kurt play a particularly prominent role since they personally attend to many of the campus needs. Recently, for example, they remodeled the preschool restrooms and installed the new stove in the kitchen! They also tap into the skills gained through years of experience to conduct repairs and perform improvements in all manner of ways. We are very grateful for their contributions!

In addition to addressing short-term and emergent issues, the Property Committee's goal is to think long-term about the needs of CLC. We try to anticipate roofing, electrical, plumbing and painting needs in a timely manner, rather than having to respond to a crisis that could have been avoided. All of our committee members are open to suggestions and questions. Greg Koch reports to the church council on a monthly basis so that we are all on the same page!



We pray for:

Members at Home or in Care Centers:

Laurie Ennen, Sheryl Hunter, Ione Marchael, Gale Mussleman, Sydney Nichols, Phil Peterson, Bary & Janice Schlieder, and Frances Willms.

Those struggling with illness or other concerns:

Don Darnauer, Paige, Judy Haenn, Daniel Howard, Shannon Howard, Beverly Koenen, Parker Treat, Kristine Trost, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.

***Family & Friends:** Susana, Irene Audett, Lois Brown, Steven De La Rosa, Jimmy Duciome, Jasenko Dzinovic, Clark Enebo, Tamra Fitzgerald, Brechin Flournoy, Allan Gatzke, Cindy Gray, Bill Holford, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Bryan Koenen, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Luke McCann, LaRaesha Murray, Linda, Steven, Alexis, Colin, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Sharry Reed, David Sarvela, Marlene Shafer, Laura Straus, Jason Thompson, Vicki Thompson, Jessica & Larisa West, and Bethany Wildes.

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, Austin Marsh, Johnny Luna, Jim Reeder, Austin Rowell, Jalan Sanchez, Steven, Brina and Michael Navarro.

We remember: Our unhoused neighbors, who find themselves without shelter and a place to call home. We pray for their safety, health, and wellness. We commit to treating them with compassion and working to combat systemic issues that leave our neighbors in need.



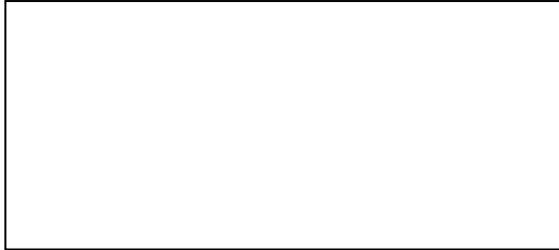
7/17 Kevin & Amy Clements-Feeman



7/8 Millie Book
 7/11 Noah Timney
 7/11 Matthew Weisel
 7/12 Ben Elliott
 7/19 Scott Fielder
 7/20 D'Jesus Trujillo
 7/29 Sydney Nichols
 7/30 Rebecca Green

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!

August Newsletter Deadline:
 July 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

email:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com

Please join us in person for Sunday
Worship 9:30am

Live on our YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/@christlutheranlb>



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