



## Life in Christ, Vol. 69 Issue 11 November, 2025



### *Beloved Community Women's Retreat* October 2025, Luther Glen Retreat Center



#### 1 John 4:7-8 [NRSVue]

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;  
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.



## BLESSING

That we who need  
each other  
will find one another.  
That we may follow the  
lines that will lead us  
to the kindred of our souls.  
That our tribe will grow  
and prosper  
and be a blessing.  
That we may be the beauty  
in which we long to dwell.

Written by Jan Richardson, "Finding My Tribe"

Last weekend, a group of 35 women from a total of 5 different Lutheran churches gathered in the San Bernardino mountains at Luther Glen to learn about, grow in, and *just be* in the beloved community. It was a time filled with worship, Bible study, fellowship, play, singing, prayer, and most of all connection. We relished the time and space away where we could be present with one another, experience time in solitude, and commune with God in the beauty of God's creation. We came back filled by our time in community.

Here's where some of the participants experienced community...

- ...during meals, like family meals, small groups, at bed time
- When we read the variety of Bible passages and our prayer shawl word
- In the singing, in the laughter, in the meals, in the weaving, in the conversations
- Tossing the yarn ball and sharing songs
- I have experienced community throughout the weekend amongst all these beautiful souls, walking about this afternoon, wonderful experience, God is everywhere



We look forward to the next opportunities we have to connect with our sisters in Christ from our Co-op churches as well as to go deeper in our relationships with the ladies of Christ Lutheran.



For those of you who didn't get to attend the Women's Retreat, remember: you still need time for rest. It's the way that we tend to ourselves: mind, body and spirit.

As we approach a busy time of year, how might you set aside some time to rest? Where will you find rest and rejuvenation in the next month?

God's Peace to you and yours-  
Pastor Nikki

## \*\*\*\*\*

### Director of Senior Adult Ministry- Shannon Howard

Your Council is proud to announce our newly hired  
Director for Senior Adult Ministry,  
Shannon Howard!

She is a familiar face to most and a sincere heart to all. We're delighted to officially welcome her to our staff as she cares for and equips our beloved senior members. Bishop Brenda Bos officially installed Shannon on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Although she won't begin her official duties until January 2026, Shannon is already hard at work planning, making connections, and offering compassionate care.



From Shannon...

*I am excited that Christ Lutheran Church has offered me the position as our new Director of Senior Adult Ministry. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the "older" members of our congregation as we support each other and continue to grow in our faith journeys. PRAISE BE TO GOD!*



## Preschool News

October was a wonderful month at CLP. We hosted the first local preschool Director's meeting on the 14th. We had 10 Directors attend. It is always a valuable time of fellowship.

We had a staff development day on 10/17. We had picture days on the 21st and 22nd. Music Makers were invited to Church on Sunday, 10/26 to perform songs they have been working on with Mrs. Fitzpatrick. The children who were able to attend had a wonderful time and we look forward to seeing the upcoming monthly Music Maker performances at church in the future.

We ended our month with our annual Trunk-or-Treating on Friday, 10/31 to celebrate Halloween. The children dressed up and each class took turns going trunk to trunk in the parking lot to collect treats. They also enjoyed special activities in their classrooms. Thank you to everyone that participated in our Trunk-or-Treating! The trunks looked great and the children had a lot of fun.

November 26th we will celebrate Thanksgiving with individual classroom celebrations. Each classroom will make placemats and centerpieces to decorate and will sing a song and say a prayer before eating. We will be closed on November 27th & 28th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Blessings for a beautiful month!  
Lisa Clinton

## Lutheran Maritime Ministry



Lutheran Maritime Ministry requests the items listed below for Christmas Gifts for the International Seafarers Center. The seafarers are very grateful for these gifts, and your thoughtful concern for them during the holiday season.

**Please bring a Christmas gift bag filled with items from this list. The staff at the Seafarer Center will add bibles, devotionals and other appropriate spiritual support materials.**

Suggested Items (full size only, no samples):

Body wash, shampoo, shave cream (some brands make a 3-in-one product)  
 Deodorant, comb, socks,  
 Tooth paste, toothbrush  
 Note pads, pens, envelopes

Other Gift Items:

Cologne or aftershave  
 Microwave popcorn, chewing gum, deck of cards, cup soup Individually wrapped hard candy (no chocolate)

**Deadline for Christ Lutheran to receive:  
 December 7**

We will once again be collecting pajamas and books for children attending the Lutheran Social Services Christmas Party.



During the Black Friday sales and the Cyber Shopping days would be a great time to get some deals on little pairs of jammies for babies, toddlers, and young kids. The children are given an age appropriate book to go with their pj's at the Christmas party, so we are looking for donations of those too. New or gently used are most welcome. Please drop these items off at church on Sunday, December 7th or make arrangements with Kim for weekday drop off.

Lutheran Social services will need volunteers again this year to help get things organized for the community party. We'll meet at church on Friday, December 13 at 10am to carpool to LSS. Please contact Claudia Fitzpatrick if available to help.



## SAVE THE DATE-

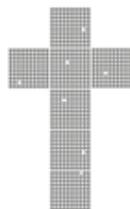


Altar Guild wants your help in preparing our space for the coming Christmas season. The more the merrier! RSVP to the church office to let us know you plan to join.

**Saturday, November 29th- "Green Up!"**  
 — Decorating for Advent  
**Saturday, January 10th- "Green Down!"**  
 — Packing away Christmas decorations

# BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREAT MERCY

*a stewardship program for our congregation*



November 2025

By now you should have received information regarding our annual pledge drive. During the month of November, we will reflect on how we can support the mission of Christ Lutheran financially. If you have not received a pledge card for 2026, it will arrive soon. Please use this time to consider your commitment.

As we begin our year-long emphasis on stewardship, we'll be focusing on our call as stewards of all that God has entrusted to us for the sake of God's world and our neighbor. We'll start by proclaiming all that God has done for us, hence the title, **"Because of God's Great Mercy."**

*1 Peter 2:9,*

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of [the one] who called you out of darkness into [God's] marvelous light."*

We will also consider how generous giving is an important part of every Christian's life, and how our combined generosity can make even greater things possible through our congregation. We will think together about how Christ Lutheran uses our offerings to do God's work within the congregation's walls, in our community, and around the world.

Commitment Sunday this year will be November 23<sup>rd</sup>. During church that day, we will offer our financial pledges for 2026 and celebrate God's Great Mercy in the Social Hall afterwards. Fellowship, food and fun will be on the menu! In the past we have had egg-bake breakfasts, taco truck lunches, and awesome Lutheran potluck celebrations. Please mark your calendars now and plan to join your Christ Lutheran family. Sign-up sheets will be available during church services, or you can always RSVP to the church office.

**Sunday Adult Education and Other Activities  
For November and December 2025**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Class or Activity</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sunday, November 2	<b>Karl's Author Party</b> <i>"The Life and Times of Karl T. Hansen"</i> <b>Moms Connect – Discipline for All Ages</b>	<b>Karl Hansen</b>  <b>Ingrid Fuelleman-Ramos</b>	Social Hall  <b>Founder's Room</b>
Sunday, November 9	<b>Holy Yoga</b> Introduction to the history of Yoga and Mindfulness & how it fits into our Christian beliefs.	<b>Shannon Howard</b> will be leading some light exercises & prayerful meditation. Wear something comfortable & bring a yoga mat (if you have one).  ALL abilities are welcome.	Social Hall
Sunday, November 16	<b>Holy Yoga</b> See above.	<b>Shannon Howard</b>	Social Hall
Sunday, November 23	<b>Commitment Sunday</b>		Social Hall
Sunday, November 30	<b>Bible Basics</b> <b>Moms Connect will join Pastor Nikki's Class</b>	<b>Pastor Nikki</b>	Social Hall
Sunday, December 7	<b>Aging Gracefully-</b> <b>Intended audience:</b> Anyone interested in exploring care options as we age. <b>Class Structure:</b> Resources for in-home or care facilities will be provided & discussed. A panel of church members who have been through this process will be available to answer questions & provide insight.	<b>Shannon Howard,</b> Director of Senior Adult Ministry <b>Annette Rodrigues,</b> Masters in Gerontology	Social Hall
Sunday, December 14	<b>Intergenerational Christmas Crafts</b>	<b>Deb Albrecht,</b> <b>Kameko Flournoy</b>	Social Hall



## What topics will be covered?

All classes will be held on Sundays at 11am

Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

Founder's Room (Lounge)

6500 Stearns St, Long Beach

562.598.2433

<del>September 28, 2025</del>	<del>The Bible</del>
November 2, 2025	Discipline for All Ages
November 30, 2025	Overcoming Hardship
February 1, 2026	Help Me Get Organized
March 1, 2026	Family Mealtimes
April 12, 2026	Confronting Bullies
May 17, 2026	Encouragement of Single Moms
June 28, 2026	Overwhelmed by Life

### SOME OR ALL

These classes are stand-alone topics. Attend one, two, or all of the sessions. You choose which classes you want to participate in.

### COMPLIMENTARY CHILDCARE

Childcare will be provided in Room 2. Children will participate in a bible study lesson on the same topic the moms are discussing.



Christ Lutheran Church

*5th Annual*

# CHRISTMAS *Market*

Please join us for our annual Christmas Market

**SATURDAY - DECEMBER 6, 2025**  
**10 AM - 2 PM**

6500 Stearns Street, Long Beach

Unique Gifts / Fair Trade / Festive Food  
Clothing / Crafts / Kids Activities





### We pray for:

#### Members at Home or in Care Centers:

Laurie Ennen, Beverly Koenen, Ione Marchael, Gale Musselman, Sydney Nichols, Phil Peterson, Bary & Janice Schlieder, and Frances Willms.

#### Those struggling with illness or other concerns:

Don Darnauer, Judy Haenn, Shannon Howard, Kristine Trost, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.

#### Family & Friends:

Irene Audett, Michael Birkley, Lois Brown, Tina Chang, Susan Clark, Clark Enebo, Tamra Fitzgerald, Brechin Flournoy, Allan Gatzke, Cindy Gray, Bill Holford, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Bryan Koenen, Katrina Lahr, Luke McCann, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Sharry Reed, David Sarvela, Marlene Shafer, Laura Straus, Eileen Surette, Jason Thompson, Vicki Thompson, Kathy Van Buskirk, Virginia Vine, Jessica & Larisa West, Bethany Wildes, baby Riley, Dave, Carol and John.

#### 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, Austin Marsh, Jim Reeder, Austin Rowell, Jalan Sanchez, Steven, Brina, Michael Navarro, and Tristan Porter.

**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.



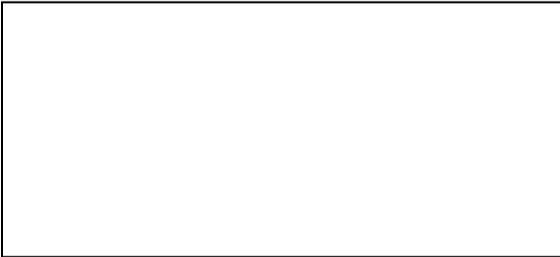
**11/2** Derek & Amanda Johnson  
**11/9** Brian Chow  
**11/26** Bill & Sue Ruth

**11/1** Andy Trost  
**11/1** Doris Weinert  
**11/6** Brianna Nieves  
**11/6** Janice Schlieder  
**11/7** Ann Williams  
**11/9** Mike Maricle  
**11/10** Jacob Treat  
**11/11** Justin Randig  
**11/15** Deborah Otterson  
**11/16** Ruth Barnes  
**11/16** Mike Freligh  
**11/20** Phil Peterson  
**11/22** Barbi Darnauer  
**11/23** Jeremy Rodrigues  
**11/25** Adam Elliott  
**11/27** Beverly Nieves  
**11/27** Bill Ruth  
**11/28** Paige Green  
**11/28** Robin Perencevic  
**11/29** Brandon Carr



**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!

December Newsletter Deadline:  
November 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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