



Life in Christ, Vol. 69 Issue 12 December, 2025



28 days, 2 hours, 51 minutes, and 45 seconds to go. [And by the time you read this, there is even less time to go.]

The countdown to Christmas has begun. Well actually, it began quite a bit ago, likely for some even before Halloween. The stores are stocked with all the “Must Haves” of the season. Red and green decorations are aplenty. Radio stations are now playing all the Christmas favorites. Christmas will soon be upon us and there is much anticipation in the air.

Our “To Do” lists seem endless:

- Make list of present recipients.
- Buy presents.
- Wrap said presents.
- Put up Christmas lights (even the outdoor ones along the roof).
- Host Christmas party.
- Attend other Christmas parties.
- Create handmade ornaments for new additions to the tree.
- Disperse Christmas wish lists.
- Bake cookies, breads, pies, and bars.
- Buy tickets to holiday choir concert.
- Attend concert.
- Dust off holiday attire. Dig out ugly Christmas sweater.
- Purchase, lug home, and decorate the tree.
- Decorate house.
- Iron linens.
- Write out ridiculous amount of Christmas cards.
- Mail said cards.
- Visit neighborhood light displays.
- Go to church.
- See kids (or grandkids) in Christmas play.

- Buy groceries.
- Eat cookies.
- Clean house.
- Purchase last minute gifts.

There is indeed much anticipation in the air. However, what do we do if the anticipation begins to turn from joyful expectation to one of anxiety and stress? With our attention and energy drawn in all directions, what do we do if we start to hope to simply survive the season? What is best to define our countdown to Christmas?

It surely could be the anticipation of all the family time, which can be so rewarding and also sometimes trying to our nerves. It could also be the push to get the best deals and give the best and most thoughtful gifts to show our love and appreciation for each other. And still it could also be the importance of having the perfect dinner and baking the best tasting goodies to give away to loved ones.

But are we so wrapped up in our “To Do” list, ensuring we have all the “essentials” and the hype of the Christmas season, that we in turn miss out on the whole point of the countdown to Christmas?

December is a month of preparation for the coming birth of the Christ child, Emmanuel, God with us. The many ways that we celebrate the season with food, decorations, gifts, family, and friends are wonderful. However, they should be lifted up in light of the coming of Christ. As we enter into the season of Advent, even with the world around us spinning with the buzz of Christmas cheer and hectic schedules, this is the time where we get to anticipate with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

The items on our “To Do” list are important also and can bring much joy, but should not define this time entirely. May we make some room on our “To Do” list so that Jesus’ entrance into the world is not overshadowed by overpriced gifts, high carb (delicious) foods, and extravagant reindeer displays, but rather is treated with the awe to which it was first received. Perhaps it would help us to focus by eliminating a countdown to Christmas and implementing a countdown to Christ’s arrival.

The short “To Do” list:

- Prepare for the coming of Christ through conversation, prayer, and worship.
- Celebrate the baby’s coming and arrival.
- Eat cookies. (They are important too.)

-Pastor Nikki

Sunday Education December 2025

Sunday, December 7	Aging Gracefully- Intended audience: Anyone interested in exploring care options as we age. Class Structure: 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.	Shannon Howard, Director of Senior Adult Ministry Annette Rodrigues, Masters in Gerontology	Social Hall
Sunday, December 14	Intergenerational Christmas Crafts	Deb Albrecht, Kameko Flournoy	Social Hall

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 26th. 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 asked one of our senior adult church members what he understands this new ministry / position at CLC to be.

His answer:

"To tend to the needs and questions of our older adult population".

Prayer and presence is at the core of what I am called to do as your Director of Senior Adult Ministry— SAM.

As always, everything in this ministry is done in consultation and under the supervision of our Lead Pastor.

Here's how to contact me:

Email Directorsam@christlutheranlb.com Cell phone 714.904.0871

Or talk to me on Sunday morning to set up a time to meet or visit.

Shannon Howard,
Director SAM @ CLC



Preschool News

Sunday, November 16th, Music Maker students were invited to sing at the 9:30am service. This has been a great way to include Preschool Families with Church. Music Makers will also sing at the Carol Sing Christmas Concert on December 14th.

On the 26th we celebrated Thanksgiving with individual classroom feasts. The children had lots of fun making centerpieces and placemats to decorate their tables. They also sang a song and said a prayer before the meal. Pictures and video were posted on the Procure app for parents to see.

Our pajama day will be on December 3rd. We will have a school-wide pajama day where the children can come to school in their pajamas and we will collect donations of new pajamas and new or gently used books to donate to LSS.

We will have a special family outing on Dec 10th with a Christmas lights tour of Naples on the Big Red Bus. We will start with cookies and coco and then board the open air double decker bus and listen to a live guitar player leading us in Christmas carols as we take in all of the beautiful lights. This activity is so popular with preschoolfamilies, we had to add another date! What a great way to get in the Christmas spirit!

Our annual Christmas program, "Who Is Coming to Our House" will be on Friday, December 19th at 3:30pm in the sanctuary. All of the children participate. Room 4 & 5 will be our stable animals and Mary & Joseph, Room 3 will be angels, Room 2 will be little drummer boys & girls, Room 1 will be shepherd and sheep, and Room 6 will be the star and "wise babies".

We will be closed for winter break December 24 through January 2. School will resume on January 5th.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Lisa Clinton



Altar Guild needs your help in taking down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary.

Saturday, January 10th- “Green Down!”
— Packing away Christmas decorations

FE Y ESPERANZA LUTHERAN CHURCH
13431 PARAMOUNT BLVD SOUTH GATE CA 90280

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever” Psalm 107:1

November 25, 2025

Dear Esteemed Members and Friends of Fe y Esperanza Lutheran Church:



As the season of Thanksgiving approaches, I am compelled to express our profound and heartfelt appreciation for your steadfast dedication and invaluable partnership. Your unwavering commitment forms the very foundation upon which our vibrant community thrives, enabling us to fulfill our mission and extend our outreach.

The spirit of generosity, selfless service, and heartfelt care you consistently demonstrate is truly transformative. Whether through your tireless volunteer efforts, the sharing of your unique talents, or your significant financial contributions, these actions directly empower the vital programs and ministries that define Fe y Esperanza. Your collective engagement ensures that our church remains a welcoming beacon of faith and a thriving spiritual home for all.

We are particularly grateful for your active involvement and support as we collectively pursue a vision for the sustained growth and enhanced self-determination of our church. Your trust and contributions are instrumental in shaping a future where Fe y Esperanza can more fully focus its resources and energy on serving our local community and nurturing our congregational family with greater autonomy and impact.

This period of reflection offers a poignant reminder of the indispensable role each of you plays within our church family. Your presence enriches us immeasurably, and your contributions create a tangible and lasting difference in the lives touched by our ministry. On behalf of the entire Fe y Esperanza community, I extend our warmest wishes for a truly joyous Thanksgiving and a blessed holiday season ahead.

With sincere gratitude,

Pr. Marta Moscoso
and Fe y Esperanza Members



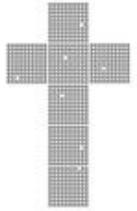
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BECAUSE OF
GOD'S GREAT MERCY
a stewardship program for our congregation



December 2025

Commitment Sunday and our Congregational Breakfast were a great success! Thank you all for attending. Our goal was 100% attendance, and we came very close to making that happen.

If you did not attend, please bring your pledge card to church as soon as possible. Our budget committee will be meeting soon to make decisions for 2026, and your pledge is a very important part of that process. If you have not received a pledge card for 2026, they are available in the church office.

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 neighbors. 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."



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





THE BROTH & BISQUE BONANZA!!

Break out your fave Soup Recipes and
let's see who will claim the coveted

GOLDEN LADEL!

Categories:

Clear/Broth * Creamy/Bisque-y * Chowder/Hearty

There will be a winner from each category,

and then the

“Best of the Best!”



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, 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.

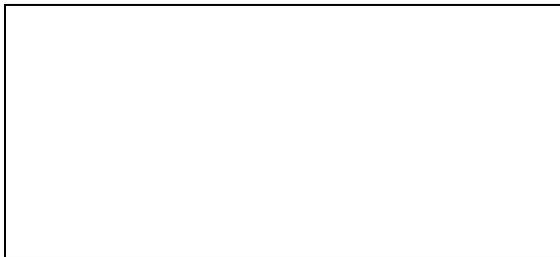
We remember: Our unhoused neighbors, who find themselves without shelter and a place to call home. We pray for their safety, health, and wellness. We commit to treating them with compassion and working to combat systemic issues that leave our neighbors in need.



12/3 Angel Trujillo
12/6 Shirley Pierce
12/8 Judy Haenn
12/13 Daniel Peralta
12/13 Linda Zimmerman
12/15 Claudia Fitzpatrick
12/17 Robin Black
12/18 Renu Moon
12/19 Angie Nelson
12/23 Annette Rodrigues
12/24 Olive Clements
12/27 Pat Barnett

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!

January Newsletter Deadline:
 December 15

Life In Christ

Is the newsletter of
Christ Lutheran Church
6500 Stearns Street
Long Beach, CA 90815-3497
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Please join us in person for Sunday
Worship 9:30am

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



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