



# Life in Christ, Vol. 70 Issue 4 April, 2026



\*\*\*\*\*

## Star Word Prompt for April

**Remembering the Star word you picked up in worship in January. Take a moment to reflect on the following Question.**



**Where do you find the hope and good news of the resurrection in/through your star word?**

\*\*\*\*\*

As Lent comes to a close and our series wrap up, I wonder: what have we learned from this time that we might incorporate into the ordinariness of post-Lent life? Beyond this season, I'm particularly invested in not falling to the temptations of despair and complacency. With that in mind, I share with you this thought-provoking article from Living.Lutheran called, "Peacemaking, not doom-scrolling," written by Karla Bohmbach. I pray that it might spur you on to more peacemaking and less doom-scrolling.

Pastor Nikki

### DEEPER UNDERSTANDINGS – JANUARY 2025

Series.editor's.note;In.8680»Deeper.understandings< is.focusing.on.the. ELCA social.statements;We.hope.to.reintroduce.them.to.readers.as.a.means.of. provoking.fruitful?enriching.conversation.between.Christians.with.different. understandings.and.convictions?and.as.a.springboard.for.active.discipleship.in.the. world;Each.article.will.introduce.a.particular.statement.and.its.Lutheran.theological. underpinnings?then.suggest.ways.in.which.it.can.spark.faithful.conversation.and. action.in.the.service.of.your.baptismal.vocation;

- “Lutherans don’t go to church to escape from the world. We go to be fed and formed for life in the world, to be the hands of Christ in the Spirit’s work of transforming the world, turning swords into plowshares and weeping into joy. The social statements reflect that work and inform how we engage in it.”

Kristin Johnston, Largent, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, on behalf of the ELCA's seminaries

I did it again. I doom-scrolled on my phone for an hour ... or was it two? Clicking from one news site to another, I lost myself in an endless maze of information, opinions and forecasts. I rationalize my behavior by saying it’s my duty as a citizen to stay informed. Yet the reality is that whatever I learn of significance or importance is drowned out by dark and relentless waves of sad, bad news. Sound familiar?

Years ago, one of my sisters gave me a refrigerator magnet with these words: “Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.” While I appreciate the sentiment (and the gift), my doom-scrolling makes a lie out of that claim. For I am not calm—either in heart or mind—knowing so much about all that is wrong and bad in the world. How can I be?

Ironically, that is actually a good thing. Not being “at peace” amid the world’s suffering and sorrow aligns with biblical teachings. In the Bible, peace involves far more than the absence of conflict, and it concerns itself with far more than the hearts and minds of individuals. Biblical peace, as expressed in the Hebrew word shalom, insists on the well-being of all; The full flourishing of all peoples on earth, as well as the earth itself—that is the Bible’s, and so God’s, notion of peace. Hence, I cannot have shalom myself absent the shalom of others.

Such a far-reaching and all-inclusive peace makes for a great dream. But it comes with huge practical challenges. The earth today holds 48 times more people than at the time of Jesus (8.2 billion vs. 170 million). That exponentially greater population

brings with it expansive and ever-expanding differences among individuals, communities and cultures. Those differences may lead to disagreements, which may turn into conflicts, which then may devolve into violence.

### **Grace and paradox**

How do Christians take a stand as peacemakers without being overwhelmed (and simply giving in to hopelessness)? Here the Lutheran emphases on grace and paradox prove especially helpful.

Grace—the divine gifting of life and salvation—means our words and deeds don’t need to come from a place of human effort and scarcity. Rather, they flow freely from a confidence in God’s power, and they pour abundantly into the great river of God’s will and might for peace in all the world. We aren’t called to do it all (whatever “it” is).

Then there is paradox—the combining of contradictory features or qualities. It stands behind the fundamentals of our beliefs (Jesus as both human and divine; humans as simultaneously sinners and justified). It means we aim for the highest goals of earthly peace while keeping in mind that such peace will always fall short of God’s peace. And that’s OK.

A Lutheran understanding of paradox allows us to live in an earthly peace that is partial, contingent, fragile and fleeting and, at the same time, to live within the vision of the future consummation of a divine peace that is full, complete, lasting and strong. That is paradox. That is grace.

The ELCA social statement “For Peace in God’s World” came out in 1995. Thirty years on, it continues to speak a deep truth about the conditions of the world and our mission as Lutheran Christians. Grounded in grace, recognizing paradox, it toggles between the now and the not-yet, earthly peace and divinely willed peace.

The statement acknowledges that taking up arms is sometimes necessary in the fallen world in which we live, but only when all else fails. Indeed, war represents a failure of politics and a reason to mourn. And while the principles of the just war

theory offer a middle way—moral guidelines for deciding on, conducting and concluding wars—it remains a last resort.

The church's deeper calling is to advocate for shalom— the full flourishing of all. That requires, at minimum, the meeting of people's basic needs for food, water, shelter and security. And still more: recognizing that all people deserve a life of dignity and that we are called to work for all that makes this possible. Such is the way of justice, and only with justice can there be true peace.

Whether by word or deed, among individuals, local communities or global entities, advocacy for justice paves the way for shalom. It helps “keep alive news of God’s resolve for peace,” as the statement reads. And that is the gift the church gives to the world—and a most valuable mission.

Doom-scrolling may have its place, but much better for me is adding my energies, through what I say and do, to the making of peace as willed and worked by God. Will you join me?

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Director of Senior Adult Ministry- Shannon Howard**

From Shannon...

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

Spring has sprung and it's time to consider some outdoor activities. I am looking into some dates for mindfulness/meditation walks at various sites in El Dorado Park. Dates and times to be announced soon.



Steve and I have been attending the Tai Chi class at El Dorado Senior Center on Fridays at 12:30. Great instructor, lots of fun and adaptable for all abilities. And, it's free! Come join us!

Call me for more information: Shannon Howard 714.904.0871



## Treasurer Position

There has been a change at the treasurer position. The role has been vacated, but Matt Timney has volunteered to return for 2026. He will continue to oversee the integration of our new bookkeeper and define the new treasurer duties, as well as fulfilling the regular responsibilities of the treasurer. Council has approved Matt as interim treasurer for the time being. The congregation will be asked to vote on Matt as a permanent replacement at the May congregation meeting.

# Announcements update

Do you have important information to share for our members and for the life of the church?

You can send information to Kim Croes to be included in the weekly e-blast and printed Announcements, as well as to be used as an insert. If you want an insert included in the weekly bulletin, please send the document in its completed form, i.e. font, color, illustrations, etc. Any pertinent info should be received by Wednesday evening for the following week's worship. If you'd like something included in the monthly newsletter, that info needs to be received by the 15th of the previous month.

You can also send information to Kim Philips for inclusion in the Sunday PowerPoint. This needs to be received no later than Friday.

Clipboards for sign-ups will be passed at the beginning of our service with verbal announcements made at the end.



Executive Director, Dixie Dohrmann will be visiting CLC on Sunday, April 26th.

She will be bringing the latest news from COA and staying after the service to enjoy coffee and treats.

This will be a great opportunity to greet her and ask any questions you may have about the services offered at COA.



# Preschool News

We had our Auction, "Come Sail Away" on Fri 3/13/26 at 6pm. We sold 114 tickets and had 106 people in attendance! We had appetizers, cash bar, dessert, wine pull (25 bottles), Lucky Ducky raffle (for \$150 to Nigel's), Victory Voyage raffle (for Nostalgia Toy basket commemorating 60 years of CLP), Toss It In Raffle game, 47 silent auction items, 10 teacher dates, 6 class projects, 4 live auction items (1st rows at Christmas Program and End of Year Program, Class Party/Date Night, and Tasting and Tour with Master Cicerone, fund an item for Emergency/Disaster supplies, and 80/10x2 raffle (\$150 to the winner) It was a lot of fun! Thank you to our emcee; Ameer Tillman, decorations Rachyl Theriault and wrapping baskets Kim Croes and Kristine Trost, and everyone that supported us through donations and attending the event! We brought in a total of \$24,380 with a profit of \$18,510!

In the month of March we celebrated St. Patrick's Day. This is always a fun day to play with the children's imaginations; building leprechaun traps, finding clues that the leprechauns have been around and finding a pot of gold! Mrs. Fitz and friends came and played Irish music and Ms. Nielsen performed some Irish dancing. In March, we also had parent teacher conferences. We gave parents the option of meeting in person or via Zoom. We then started Registration for current students and siblings for our upcoming Fall session on March 25th. We will now begin to register people from our waiting list in April.

In April, we will celebrate Easter with egg hunts and a family picnic on the yard on Friday, 4/3. We will then close at 12:30pm. We will be closed for Spring Break April 6th-10th. We will also celebrate Week of the Young Child April 20th-24th. We will kick off the week with a special Preschool Sunday service on April 19th. Our Theme for the week will be "The 5 Senses". Each day will be full of fun activities. This is always an exciting and fun week to celebrate young children.

Wishing you a beautiful Spring!  
Lisa Clinton

# Lent, Holy <sup>+</sup>Week, & Easter

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, LONG BEACH

February 18 - Ash Wednesday	11AM & 7PM
Lent Sundays - Worship, Devotions & Soup Luncheon	9:30AM
March 29 - Palm Sunday	9:30AM
April 2 - Maundy Thursday Co-op Service at King of Glory Lutheran Church, Fountain Valley	Dinner at 6pm Worship at 7pm
April 3 - Good Friday	7PM
April 5 - Easter Sunday	9:30AM

[www.christlutheranlb.com](http://www.christlutheranlb.com)

**Sunday Adult Education and Other Activities  
For April – June 2026**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class/Activity</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Place</b>
Sunday, Apr 12	Romans- Session 1 Moms Connect – Confronting Bullies	Don Koepke Ingrid Fuelleman- Ramos & Chris Caldwell	Conference Room Founder's Room
Sunday, Apr 19	Romans- Session 2	Don Koepke	Conference Room
Sunday, April 26	Romans- Session 3	Don Koepke	Conference Room
Sunday, May 3	Romans- Session 4	Don Koepke	Conference Room
Sunday, May 10	Mother's Day – NO CLASS		
Sunday, May 17	Romans- Session 5 Moms Connect – Encouragement of Single Moms	Don Koepke Chris Caldwell	Conference Room Founder's Room
Sunday, May 24	Romans- Session 6	Don Koepke	Conference Room
Sunday, May 31	Congregational Meeting		Social Hall
Sunday, June 7	Romans- Session 7	Don Koepke	Conference Room
Sunday, June 14	Romans- Session 8	Don Koepke	Conference Room
Sunday, June 21	Father's Day – NO CLASS		
Sunday, June 28	Moms Connect – Overwhelmed by Life	Chris Caldwell	Founder's Room



Wishing you and yours a wonderful Easter Season!

*Pastor Nikki, Director SAM-Shannon Howard, Kim Croes,  
Roger Halvorson, Kim Philips, Brad Croes, and Jett Baker*



### 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:

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

#### Family & Friends:

Irene Audett, Michael Birkley, Leah Bootman, Lois Brown, Tina Chang, Susan Clark, Clark Enebo, Tamra Fitzgerald, Brechin Flournoy, Allan Gatzke, Cindy Gray, Bill Holford, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Bryan Koenen, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Chris Lancy, the Llewellyn family, Luke McCann, Ericka Mancuso, Tim Myer, Deborah Ramos, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Sharry Reed, David Sarvela, Marlene Shafer, Leah Sourbeer, Laura Straus, Eileen Surette, Jason Thompson, Vicki Thompson, Kathy Van Buskirk, Melinda and Gerardo Vasquez, Jessica & Larisa West, Bethany Wildes, 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, Johnny Luna, Jim Reeder, Austin Rowell,

Jalan Sanchez, Steven, Brina, Michael Navarro, and Tristan Porter.



4/4 Millie & Garrett Book

4/6 Lauren (Trost) & Priyen Prema

4/10 Judy & Don Koepke

4/18 Lisa & Ken Reason



4/1 Brianna Croes

4/3 Amanda Johnson

4/5 Ruth Depuy

4/5 Pastor Nikki

4/9 Phyllis Kay

4/9 Matt Nelson

4/10 Laurie Ennen

4/14 Shannon Howard

4/17 Stephanie Petrbock

4/18 John Ennen

4/27 Lisa Cottrell

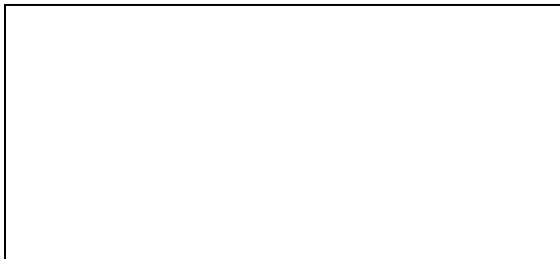
4/28 Paislee Treat

4/30 Tricia Latiolait

4/30 Stephanie Murray

**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!

May Newsletter Deadline:  
 April 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>



Be sure to LIKE us on Facebook.

[facebook.com/christlutheranlb](https://www.facebook.com/christlutheranlb)