



Life in Christ, Vol. 70 Issue 9

September 2026





Star Word Prompt for September
Remembering the Star word you picked up in worship in January. Take a moment to reflect on the following question.

★ **September:** How could you use your star word and your journey with it to teach someone about faith?

When someone is grieving the loss of someone, we don't always know what to say. We might be worried that we'll make them sad by bringing their loved one up. We might be afraid we might stick our foot in our mouth and say the wrong thing. We might find it's easier to avoid the subject or the bereaved altogether. But this won't show them that we care. And we do. So how do we communicate care best?

Consider these things:

- Ask them what they need right now- would they like to talk about their loved one or are they looking for a distraction? Follow suit.
- Use their loved one's name. You are not going to make them sad because they are already sad. They want to know that you remember their person. By using their name, you help to keep their loved one's memory alive and present.
- Tell them that you're thinking of them and that you care. Sometimes these messages are preferred because they don't require a response especially if done via text.
- Just listen.

As our series on the Grief Lectionary is coming to a close, I am looking for your input on what other offerings related to grief might be helpful. I mentioned the possibility of a small group study on the full Grief Lectionary materials or a small support group offering. Does that interest you? Please let me know. If you've got another idea on next steps, let me know that as well.

Pastor Nikki

Director of Senior Adult Ministry- Shannon Howard

September SAM / Senior Adult Ministry News:

It's September and we're heading into the Autumn months.

With the change of season, it's good to remember that changing some of our daily routines---like eating what is in season is good for our health.

There is an old adage "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." There is actually some wisdom in that saying. Apples, especially if the skin is left on, can give your immune system a boost.



You may have noticed that there are several apple trees on our church campus. There are five trees in front and one by the kitchen door. The big one in front of the preschool is the first to ripen and the others are not far behind. You can tell if they are ripe if you press your thumb nail at the top of the stem and it comes off the tree easily. Feel free to pick a few when you pass by. Here's to a healthy Fall season.

Note: I will be on vacation from September 9th through the 30th.
See you all in October.

Shannon Howard SAM / Director of Senior Adult Ministry

Call me to find out what I can do to support you: Shannon Howard 714.904.0871



Dear CLC Family,

When Bill and I became members of Christ Lutheran last year, we brought with us the experience of many, many years of ministry in communities rich in so many important ways but very poor economically. Even so, we often marveled at how much we had been blessed by that opportunity. Serving in a congregation that relied on help from others, caused us to fully appreciate our dependence on God. We were personally touched daily by God's love through the labor and gifts of others.

Coming to CLC, we were eager to join a congregation overflowing with that Spirit of Compassion that had sustained us for so long. It was a natural step for us to join Church in Society to be part of a team that found ways to support those non-profit organizations that we know depend on outside help like we did for so long. This involves not just supporting them financially, but actively serving, and humbly learning of ways to become involved in the struggles in our world. We were happy to help Church in Society designate ways for CLC to help each month and have marveled at the generosity of giving we have witnessed by the congregation.

We know full well that our congregation's generous giving did not come from being rich financially, but from a richness of love and compassion. Coming from the perspective of the tremendous needs in our society, Bill and I wanted to help augment our giving by suggesting participating in the Thrivent Financial Live Generously Action Team projects. Fortunately, we have many CLC members who are also Thrivent members and have already completed several projects so far this year. So much of the service that happens at church is done behind the scenes and we all benefit from that work. We want to thank and celebrate you all for the incredible efforts done that serve God and help us all.



Some of the completed Thrivent projects include: (This is not a complete list.)

- Funds to help with refurbishing our upstairs Youth Room for our people to use for S.S., youth fun nights, fellowship, and study
- Funds to assist with providing the materials for workshops at our Fall Women's Retreat with our Co-op Churches
- Funds for our Easter Egg Hunt and Festivities in conjunction with Moms/Kids Connect
- Funds to support the semi-annual Health/Education/Immigration Help/Food Distribution Fair held at our sister congregation Fe y Esperanza in South Gate to provide food to feed over 250 participants
- Funds to purchase two 100-cup coffee makers for COA (Christian Outreach in Action) to feed the homeless in downtown Long Beach
- Funds to purchase a microwave for use at COA
- Funds to purchase the Quickset glue and yarn needed by our world-class knitter Rich Oelschlaeger who knits hundreds of caps for various organizations each year
- Funds for snacks and numerous expenses for our VBS week-long program which served over 90 kids from church/pre-school/community this year
- Funds (\$250) for purchasing additional needs on the list for New Life Beginnings Shelter
- Funds to kick-start the on-going Faith-Building Camp/Youth Gatherings Fund between CLC and Fe y Esperanza that began with a request for donations and ended with a donations-only luncheon provided by Fe y Esperanza with attendees from CLC, FyE, Pueblo de Dios, Gloria Dei, and Sam Campeau and 15 staff from our Lutheran Camps (the on-going fundraiser raised \$1500 at CLC and \$1233 at FyE)
- Funds to purchase camping supplies for FyE participants

As you can see, much is being done behind the scenes. We have quite a few experts on how to submit an application for a Thrivent Action Team project. Remember, members can complete two a year. If you are looking for a great project, we recently received information about how we can help the Veterans Hospital and Housing Facility here in Long Beach very easily. (See me for more information.)

As we prepare for God's Work Our Hands Sunday, September 13, Thrivent members can also request a Cause Kit which we will put together as one of the activities that day. We hope to exceed our record at last year's event. (All Thrivent members can request either the water-filter or solar light kit which are donated at no cost to us so a non-profit organization in Australia can deliver them to remote villages in Africa.) Please order them ASAP (sent to the church) as it takes 7-10 days to arrive.

Thank you all for your fantastic energy and enthusiasm. May God bless our efforts to serve God in this way.

Sue and Pastor Bill Ruth



Happy 100th Birthday to Lone Marchael!

Thank you for helping make Lone's day special by sending cards and warm greetings.

Shannon Howard and Barbi Darnauer were able to deliver them personally and had a great visit with Lone.



Dear Pastor Nikki and Members of Christ Lutheran Church,

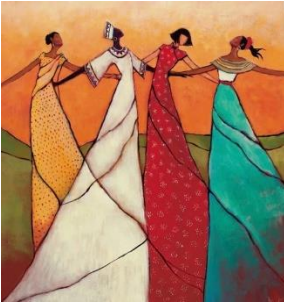
Thank you for helping make our 2026 Back-to-School Event such a wonderful success! Through the grace of God and your generous support, we served 79 families and reached 215 children and community members.

The children enjoyed a bounce house, inflatable slide, pizza lunch, haircuts, and arts and crafts. Families received groceries, hygiene products, backpacks, school supplies, and valuable community resources. LA Metro provided bus passes, and representatives from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, AltaMed, the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, and Didi Hirsch shared helpful information and resources with youth and parents.

Your financial contribution, donated supplies, and dedicated volunteers made this special day possible. Local Long Beach children and families can now begin the school year feeling prepared, encouraged, and supported.

We thank our Lord Jesus Christ for His many blessings and for working through the faithful members of Christ Lutheran Church. May He continue to bless your congregation abundantly as you serve others with compassion and love.

Sincerely,
Wendy Rubio
LSSSC Staff and Volunteers



There is a time for everything, there is a season for every activity under the heavens. (Ecclesiastes 3: 1)

BELOVED COMMUNITY WOMEN'S RETREAT
"TO EVERYTHING, THERE IS A SEASON"
SATURDAY, SEPT. 26, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, BUENA PARK

Women from Bethlehem, Christ,
 Good Shepherd, King of Glory, Mt. Calvary,
 and Our Redeemer churches are all invited to attend!

Gather in beloved community to explore our place in the web of life and deepen our commitment to care for creation. We will worship our Creator, sing, share a delicious meal, grow new life, and learn how to bloom where we are planted.

We are excited to welcome Rev. Melissa Maxwell-Doherty as our guest speaker.

About Rev. Melissa Maxwell-Doherty

Melissa grew up in Long Beach, CA, and was a member of what was then known as Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. It was a great church in which to be formed in the faith, and its location across from Angel Food Donuts was an added bonus. After attending California Lutheran College and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, she served as a parish pastor at Salem, Glendale, Prince of Peace, Phoenix, and Calvary, Grand Forks, North Dakota (God has a great sense of humor). Returning to CA in 2000, she served as a Campus Pastor at her alma mater (the best call ever!) for 15 years, then as Vice President for Mission and Identity at Cal Lu, until her retirement. Serving as a clergy couple with her husband, Scott, has guaranteed that "life is an adventure, so you better buckle up." Melissa and Scott have two adult children, Kyle and Nathan, two daughters-in-law, Lauren and Addie, and three grandchildren-Maggie, a Treeing Walker Coonhound, Maisie, a Bernese Mountain and English Sheepdog mix, and Kathryn, a delightful human who will be 9 months at the time of the retreat. Melissa enjoys trying new recipes, searching for sea glass and shells, and creating mixed-media and watercolor art.

Our retreat will highlight the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach which rescues, rehabilitates and releases marine mammals and inspires ocean stewardship through research, education and collaboration. Donations will be accepted (cash or check made out to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center).

Cost of the Retreat: \$30.00 which includes lunch and all materials.

**Event Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7082 Crescent Avenue, Buena Park, CA 90620
(714) 827-6021**

Registration is now open. Registration forms can be returned with payment to Ingrid Fuelleman-Ramos or the Church Office by 9/13/26.

Women's Ministry - Fall 2026-

Fall Cooking Class @ Sur La Table

Saturday, October 17 @ 10 AM

South Coast Plaza Sur la Table

A Fall Feast: Cider Glazed Pork Tenderloin with Apple-Cranberry Chutney

Fall Book Club

"Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi

Saturday, November 14 @ 9 AM

Location TBD





Preschool News

Our Summer session, "On the Move" was a huge success. Our weekly themes included: Our Bodies, Airplanes & Rockets, Boats, Wheels, Trains, VBS-Road Trip, Animals, Cars and Balloons. Our special visitors included Elks Vision Screening, a Pilot, a Boat, Long Beach Skatedogs Skateboarders, Trackless Train, Pony Rides, Police Car, and Balloon Artist. We also had Church members as Guest Readers each week to read to all of the children in the courtyard. We continued having Chapel and Music Makers throughout the summer. We also had so much fun participating in the Vacation Bible School week with a great turnout for the BBQ that Thursday.

We had a new student orientation on Friday, August 14 from 3:30-4:30pm. We had about 10 new students come for orientation. We started off in the Social Hall for introductions, toured the school, then went on the playground to play and meet the teachers. We ended our summer on Friday, 8/21 with a bounce house and a dad, who is a DJ, played music for the kids. School then closed at 12:30pm. We closed 8/24-8/28 for our staff work week to get everything cleaned and prepped for fall.

Our 2026-2027 school year began on August 31st. Our teachers will be installed on Sunday, 9/20. Our staffing for fall will be Ms. Zacahula in Room 1, Ms. Nielsen in Room 2, Ms. Germain in Room 3, Ms. Meza in Room 4, Ms. Fitzpatrick in Room 5, Ms. Villanueva in Room 6, Ms. Scott for our Afternoon Teacher, and Ms. Tompkins as our Floater. We will spend the month getting to know all of our new families and getting to know our current families even better. Back to School night will be Monday, 9/14 at 6:30pm.

We wish all of our graduates going on to kindergarten success and look forward to welcoming our new and continuing students to another year of growing in God's Love at CLP.

Blessings for a sweet end to summer.

Ms. Clinton

Sunday Adult Education Schedule and Other Activities

Date	Event or Class	Leaders	Location
August 23	Evangelism Person to Person: Talking about your faith with those you love.	Don Koepke	CR
August 30	Evangelism	Don Koepke	CR
September 6	Evangelism	Don Koepke	CR
September 13	God's Work, Our Hands: An Annual Day Devoted to Love of Our Neighbors and Church as We Celebrate the ELCA, Service, and Community		Campus-wide
September 20	Congregational Meeting		SH
September 27	Evangelism	Don Koepke	CR
October 4	What does the Lutheran Office of Public Policy have to say about this year's elections? LOPP represents the coordinated position of the ELCA on issues of public policy, particularly in the state of California. Their "work is guided by the social statements of the ELCA...teaching and policy documents which provide a theological framework for discerning how to respond to issues such as criminal justice and immigration."	Ron Nelson	CR
October 11	What's going on in <u>Palestine</u>?: How current events are affecting our neighbors in the Middle <u>East</u> .	Andrea Joseph	CR
October 18	Funeral Arrangements- From When to How <u>Don't</u> know where to <u>start</u> ? Not wanting to overwhelm <u>family</u> on your passing? Make some decisions now that will help everyone in the long run.	Pastor Nikki and Shannon Howard	SH
October 25	Reformation/Octoberfest Celebrate the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation that birthed the Lutheran church and enjoy a festive meal together!		SH



We pray for:
Members at Home or in Care Centers: Laurie Ennen, Beverly Koenen, Ione Marchael, Gale

Musselman, Sydney Nichols, Phil & Jeanne Peterson, Bary & Janice Schlieder, and Frances Willms.

Those struggling with illness or other concerns: Lisa Cottrell, Shannon Howard, Ken Reason, Kristine Trost, Kurt Weisel, Gary Zimmerman.

***Family & Friends:** Hilton Baham, Susan Clark, Clark Enebo, Brechin Flournoy, Allan Gatzke, Karen Gorski, Cindy Gray, Becky Haugen, Vivian Houser, Valentina, Donna, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Corey Huber, Jillian LeDuff, Donna LeDuff, Larry Klevos, Bryan Koenen, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Luke McCann, the Moreno family, the Pierce family, Julie Petrbok, Deborah Ramos, Kimberly Reed, Milan Magee, Sharry Reed, David Sarvela, Gale Schlesinger, Leah Sourbeer, Laura Straus, Jason Thompson, Vicki Thompson, Bethany Wildes, Dave, Nanis (Nahneece), Nati and Florian.

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.



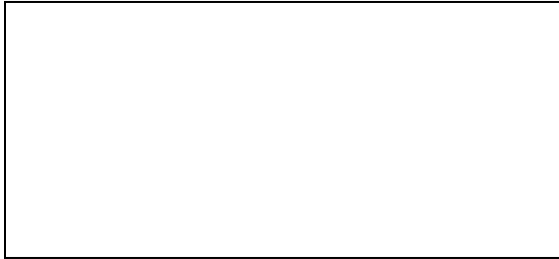
9/3 Brandon and Sandra Carr
9/9 Morgan and Grant Green
9/10 Kim and Frank Croes
9/14 Nancy Brown & Karl Hansen
9/27 Laurel and Adam Elliott
9/28 Glenn & Claire Hoxie

9/6 Nicholas Jenkins
9/6 Annie Johnson
9/12 Nathan Latiolait
9/14 Hannah Rodrigues
9/18 Emily (Randig) Hearn
9/21 Jonah Koch
9/22 Arielle Joubert-Honacki
9/23 Chantal Joubert-Honacki
9/25 Kameko Flournoy
9/25 Kathy Treat
9/26 Jax Johnson
9/28 Linda Peralta
9/29 Sam McGee
9/30 Matthew Timney



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!

October Newsletter Deadline:
 September 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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