



Christ Lutheran Church

Almighty God by the power of your Holy Spirit open our eyes, ears, hearts, and very lives to your presence so that today we may worship and serve you in faithfulness and be a blessing and healing reminders of your love to all whose lives we touch. Amen.



January Calendar

Every Tuesday

Bible Study
10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Centering Prayer

On hiatus until spring.

December 25– January 4

Office Closed

January 12

WELCA Bible Study
Donna Running's 1 p.m.

January 12

Neighborhood Watch
Sanctuary 6:30 p.m.

January 14

Book Club
Fireside Room - 6 p.m.

January 21

Council Meeting
Fireside Room -
5:30 p.m.

January 27

Flying Solo
Lois Faist's - 2 p.m.

January 31

ANNUAL MEETING
Sanctuary - 9:15 a.m.

Pastor's Message

In preparation for this New Year's message, I've just read all my 2015 newsletter articles. Many of them end with an invitation to work together, or pray together or anticipate the future together. We emphasize community a lot at Christ Lutheran, and that theme is prevalent in my articles.

It was also satisfying to see our ministries focus as the year progressed. Centering Prayer was established. Our homeless lunch became a defining factor of our identity. Tuesday Night Bible Study found its footing. We had a sense of mission for our 50th Anniversary Celebration. La Cristianita preschool finished the 2014-2015 school year in good shape and has improved its enrollment, financial state and curriculum in this year.

In April, I shared the steps needed to grow a church. The first step was to deepen our prayer life. I'd like to linger on this idea for a moment.

Earlier in the year, I felt God was calling us to make our worship services more prayerful. We started inviting people to join prayer partners after communion. We spend more time in silence during the Prayers of the People. We often pray for each other before the Lord's Prayer. Centering Prayer

met on our worship site every Wednesday morning. We put up a "prayer board" at both services to invite our neighbors to leave their prayer requests. We've invited people to pray the petitions each Sunday. As I write this list, I marvel at all the different ways we've become more committed to our prayer life.

I believe those practices are deepening our communal faith. We're opening our hearts to the Holy Spirit and taking some time to let the Spirit move among us. For some of us, it's been a little uncomfortable. For some of us, it's been life-giving. While prayer gives us a chance to share our hearts with God, it also tenderizes us to each other, the world around us and the messages God is trying to send us. Many of us consider prayer a time to talk to God. Now we see prayer is also a time to listen to God.

Your prayers, silent or spoken, are blessing this church. The Spirit is also moving powerfully among us as we sit in silence. In the coming year, we will continue to listen to the Spirit and pray boldly to God. May God unite our hearts and lead us forward with courage and love. Amen!

-Pastor Brenda



Council Corner

2015—Christ Lutheran's 50th Anniversary—was a banner year for our church, thanks to Pastor Brenda and our amazing congregation! Because of YOU, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary in fine fashion, honoring our Lord Jesus Christ with many "50s" given—pints of blood, pounds of food to FAM, gifts of clothing to the homeless, neighbors invited to our block party and blessing of the animals, Booster Shots for our church budget, acts of kindness, thank you letters to veterans and more! We also exceeded our expectations of attendees at our anniversary service on Nov. 8, a service in which our former Pastor Margaret participated and Rufus helped with the children's sermon! What a great year!

Your Church Council thanks you so much for responding to calls for giving in various ways throughout the year (monetarily, with food and gifts, with time and talents, and always with love). Bless you, bless you, bless you.

We look forward to a great turnout at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 31, 9:15 a.m., between services in the sanctuary. This is the one time we all get together to celebrate the year past and plan for the year ahead. This meeting will see us electing at least two new Council members, hopefully passing Church Constitutional amendments that will allow Associate Members to vote and and serve as officers in our congregation and make Council terms two years (instead of three, with the third year as an option). We will also consider a new church Mission Statement and vote to approve the Council-recommended 2016 Annual Congregation Budget, which is again a deficit budget—but \$30,000 less in deficit than what we passed last year! Things are looking up, as we move forward in faith and plan and work toward increased revenue, especially in terms of facility usage.

Please come to the annual meeting on January 31, to vote on these important matters, thank the outgoing Council members and elect and welcome the new! Bless you for your giving in the past year and for helping the Church Council with decision-making by sharing your ideas and thoughts with us.

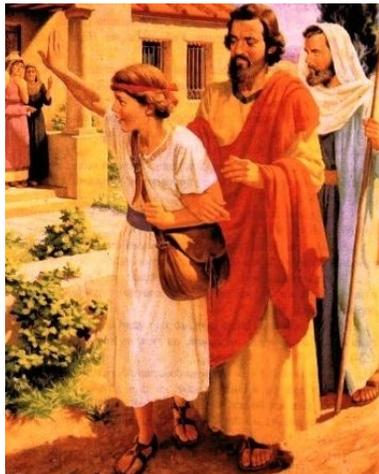
Pastor Brenda, Shay Arnett, Betty Buck, Judy Franz, Pat Gilliam, Laura Pephens, Donna Vidrine

ANNUAL MEETING: 1/31 9:15 A.M.



Christ Lutheran Church

What in the world of WELCA?

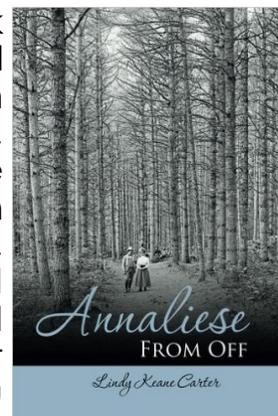


Calling all CLC women to travel with us on Paul's 2nd missionary journey with Timothy and Silas guided and directed "by the Spirit of Jesus. in a series called Christian Citizenship 101, starting with "Confidence in God's Beginnings and Endings". This winter Bible Study, through April, explores the wonderful book Philipians. Please join us!

WELCA Bible Study, Tuesday, January 10th from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Donna Running's home, 118 Mira Adelante, SC. For more information e-mail Betty Buck at edbmeb@cox.net or by calling 493-6179.

CLC Book Club

Annalise from Off, by Lindy Keane Carter, journalist and dear friend of our fellow church member Dellita Kobold, is the book our CLC Book Club has been reading most recently and will discuss on Thursday, January 14, 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room at church. This is an amazing story of a woman of privilege, torn with her little children from a comfortable life in Louisville to join her husband and his brother in a lumber business in rural Georgia in the early 1900s, who finds her own strength, resourcefulness and love for nature (and a formerly unloved sister-in-law) while dealing with her husband's downward spiral. Please join us for a potluck and bring a friend to meet the author. The book is available on Amazon.com. If you don't have time to read it before Jan. 14, no worries. All are welcome and the rest of us can fill you in!



Flying Solo



Christ Lutheran Church is pleased to introduce a new special group! **Flying Solo** debuts in January. Many of us find ourselves living our lives alone, either by choice or circumstance. Some of us feel alone even in marriages or families. If any of these scenarios ring true for you, please join us in Lois Faist's home Wednesday, January 27 at 2:00 pm for a time of support and fellowship as we navigate the realities of "flying solo". (If we determine a different time works better for people, we'll change the meeting time going forward).

God's Work. Our Hands.

This is a recurring series about CLC members and friends who volunteer in the community, taking Christ's great commission to "love one another" beyond the beach and our church or preschool walls. Do you know volunteers who should be featured? Let Pastor Brenda know, so we can highlight them here.

Lifelong Lutheran Donna Vidrine found Christ Lutheran in 2001, shortly after moving to southern California from South Carolina. "I visited three Lutheran churches in the area," Donna said, "but I felt most at home at Christ Lutheran. Cindy and Ron Boden [former amazing members and volunteers] were especially welcoming and helpful." Most recently, Donna has been serving on Church Council, focused on visitation and neighborhood and member outreach.



Donna has been a registered nurse for 35 years, graduating from the College of Mount St. Joseph, in Cincinnati, Ohio (her home state), which her mother also attended. She served on active duty as a nurse in the U.S. Air Force for seven years and was deployed twice--once in Operation Desert Storm and then stationed at Fairford Airfield in the Cotswolds, England (diverted from Saudi Arabia), serving in field hospitals. She retired from the Air Force as Captain Donna Carney and was living in Columbia, South Carolina, raising daughters Beth and Michelle as a single mom, when she met scientist Warren Vidrine and the rest is history!

Donna moved her family to southern California to be with Warren and they were married in 2002 at Christ Lutheran by our former pastor, Margaret Duttera. Donna continued her nursing career and now runs her own business, Clara Barton Health Services (inspired by visiting Civil War nurse Clara Barton's National Historic Site in Maryland), providing legal nurse consulting services and contract registered nurse services throughout the southern California area.

The threat to close San Clemente hospital last year energized Donna and Warren, who both got very involved in the Save Our Hospital movement, wanting to make sure residents recognized the importance of having a local hospital and emergency room for our 60,000-plus residents. "This is the first time I've been involved as an activist in decades," said Donna. "Working with Warren on this shared interest, we've tried to heighten community awareness. Just wearing my 'Save Our Hospital' shirt has started many great conversations about this important issue." She is proud to be involved with local doctors, the sheriff's and fire departments, city leaders and state legislators in this effort.

Donna's community work also includes being a MemorialCare Hospice volunteer, helping individual clients and their families with end-of-life issues and needs. "I have experienced the death of several family members in the last couple of years," said Donna, "and hospice workers helped them die more comfortably at home and were there for our family. This is my way of giving back."

And then there's Boy Scouts and Little League, thanks to grandson Angelo! Donna is Summer Camp Coordinator for Angelo's Scout group ("the only grandma involved") and she and Warren cheer Angelo on in all his baseball adventures. When Michelle, who has followed in her mother's footsteps and is in her fourth year of service in the

Air Force Reserve and must do reserve duty several times a year, Donna and Warren step in to support Angelo. "It takes a village," said Donna and they love it. Donna's daughter Beth still lives in South Carolina, son Philip and his wife and two-year old daughter live in San Antonio, and Michelle and Angelo live here and are members of Christ Lutheran.

Finally, Donna and Warren are local winemakers who have won awards at the Orange County Fair and provide communion wine for our church. A blessing indeed! Thank you, Donna, for your many gifts to CLC and our community.

P.S. The author of this series, who shall remain nameless, apologizes for omitting important information from last month's article about the amazing Mary Monasmith, especially since Mary was instrumental in decorating the sanctuary for Christmas again this year and creating the beautiful, serene meditation tent for Quiet Reflection Sanctuary, which then was used for Christmas Eve services as well. Mary, who served on Council as treasurer during two recent difficult years, told the unnamed author, "I love this church and I love Pastor Brenda."

CHRIST LUTHERAN OUTREACH - SERVING OUR COMMUNITY!

San Clemente Military Family Outreach

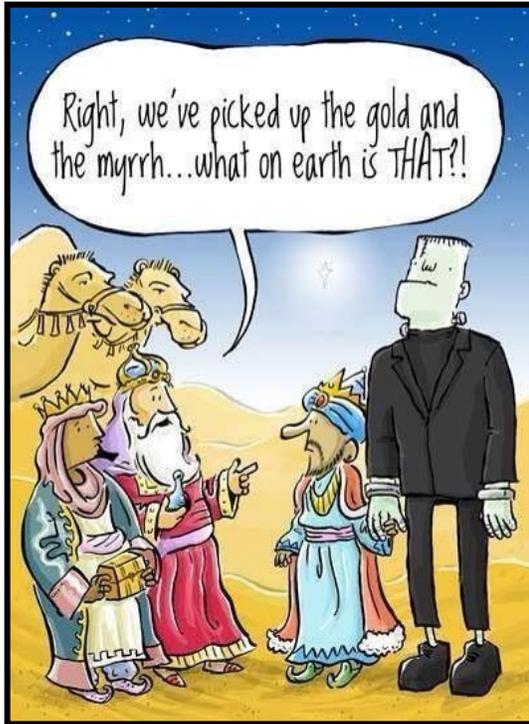
Having a baby 300 or 3000 miles from home, where your family and friends would have thrown you a baby shower, but now you're at Camp Pendleton? No worries! San Clemente Military Family Outreach (SCMFO), the military support group our church has supported for the last five years, has it covered! We host a baby shower just like they would have had at home.

25 military moms-to-be and a friend or husband each will be celebrated on Saturday, Jan. 30, by SCMFO with a baby shower held at St. Andrew's -by-the-Sea Methodist Church, the church that provides free office space for SCMFO (and where SCMFO got its start). Most of the layette baby gifts come from Mary's Feast, an event in early December also hosted by St. Andrew's that this year was attended by five of us from CLC and women from many San Clemente area churches. But many other bigger gifts (car seats, high chairs, cribs, etc.) need to be purchased so we have a "large" gift for each mom-to-be in attendance.

If you'd like to donate a large gift (or diapers or baby clothes—all are always welcome and needed) or help at the event, please contact Judy Franz at junofranz@aol.com or 310-866-0378 (cell).

WE'RE ONLINE!

Twitter: @beachchurchsc
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/christlutheransc
 Website: www.clcsancllemente.org



Weekly Bible Studies and Worship

(Please feel free to drop in any time - newcomers always welcome)

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

10-11 am in the Fireside Room

A deeper look at the Bible passages featured the following Sunday. All levels of knowledge welcome.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

6-7 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Spirited discussion on the Book of Acts. No Biblical experience necessary!

Wednesday Morning Centering

Prayer

On hiatus until spring!

Save The Date!

Tuesday, January 12th-
 Neighborhood Watch Meeting
 Church Sanctuary 6 p.m.

Wednesday, January 27-
 Flying Solo
 Lois Faist's 2 p.m.

Sunday, January 31-
>>>ANNUAL MEETING<<<
 Church Sanctuary 12 p.m.

Sunday, February 14-
 QRS
 Church Sanctuary 12 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING: 1/31 9:15 A.M.



Christ Lutheran Church

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH &
 LA CRISTIANITA PRESCHOOL**

35522 CAMINO CAPISTRANO

SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92672

CLC Contact Information:

secretary@cbc.occoxmail.com

949. 496. 2621

Office hours: 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Lunch 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Leigh Ann Downie-Economy
 Preschool Director

leighann@cbc.occoxmail.com

949. 496. 1405

Preschool hours: 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.