



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.



May Calendar

Every Tuesday

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

Every Wednesday

Centering Prayer and
Beach Walk
North Beach 7:30 a.m.

May 7

Ocean Friendly Gardens
& Succulent Swap
Sanctuary 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

May 10th

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

May 10th

Book Club
Fireside Room 6 p.m..

May 15

Council Retreat

May 29

QRS
Sanctuary 12 p.m.

Sunday Worship

Beach Worship
8:00AM

Sanctuary Service
10:30 AM

Pastor's Message

Our Tuesday night Bible Study has been reading the Book of Acts. The main character in this book is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the One who tells the apostles where to go, who to talk to, how to build up congregations. The Holy Spirit shows up in wind and in dreams. Sometimes the Spirit comes without warning, sometimes in the words of strangers, sometimes during worship, sometimes at meals.

I used to be jealous of that early church with their Holy Spirit moments. Why didn't that happen to the church today? Well, apparently I wasn't looking very hard. The Holy Spirit shows up all the time, sending us messages of encouragement and instruction. **The Holy Spirit gives us really good ideas.**

In the past two months, people have suggested we work with transitional age youth to create our church garden. They have suggested we ask local barbers if we can pay for haircuts for the homeless. We have wondered about offering laundry service to those who live outside. The WELCA group is feeling a call to service and is awaiting clarification from the Holy Spirit. People have suggested new ways to donate resources to the church. People who have always been too shy to

assist in worship are stepping up, offering to read, or serve communion or play music.

The Holy Spirit shows up during worship as you joyfully receive communion and greet each other. I see it in the way you nod your heads in recognition during sermons and prayers. I see it in the kindness you offer to old friends and new visitors. This is not just about being a friendly church. This is about answering the Holy Spirit's call.

And, at the risk of sounding crass, I have to point to our offerings as another sign of the Holy Spirit's work. Giving has been vigorous in the first quarter of this year. Please see Treasurer Laura Pephens' article in this newsletter for some wonderful details. **The Holy Spirit gives us a generous heart.** We begin to dream new dreams. We begin to connect our money with the things we care about. This is very important to me: I don't want you to give to church because you think you should. I want you to give to church because you see God's work happening here and want to be a part of it. As our financial picture improves, we can stop worrying about day-to-day survival and start serving our community more effectively. Yes, we need money for basics like utilities and insurance. But once those bills are paid, we can move into

Continued on next page.

the stuff God really cares about: outreach, mission, benevolence. Feeding the sheep, tending the lambs, the stuff Jesus asked us to do. I see the Holy Spirit moving in our midst as we increase our giving. I hope you have been encouraged by the giving too.

Are you feeling a strange warmth toward people? Are you getting excited about a new idea? Are you surprising yourself with acts of kindness and saying 'yes' to new things? Holy Spirit alert – it's time to name and claim these exciting appearances of the Holy Spirit in our individual lives and in the life of this church. Praise God!

-Pastor Brenda

Council Corner

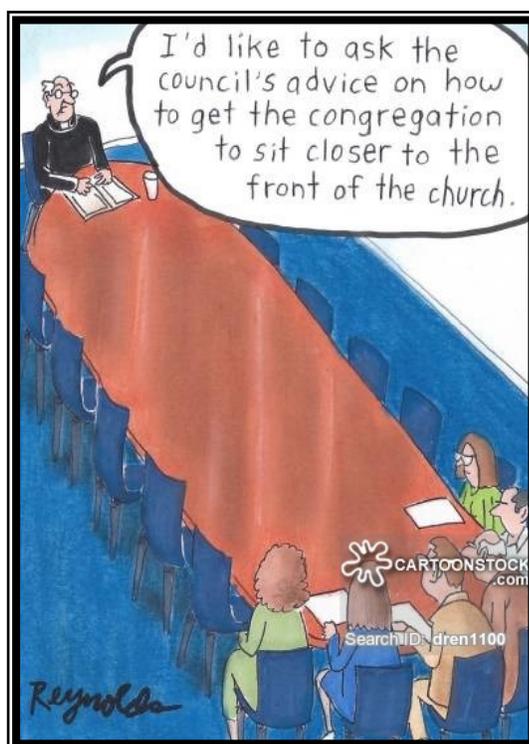
Welcome to Council Corner! April was an exciting month! Betty Buck organized our bi-annual blood drive. Our kids were out for Spring Break. We had a whale wash up on the shores of Trestles. God is good!

Our council meetings are keeping to the shorter time frame and yet we are still productive. A few ideas that we will be considering are a volunteer coordinator position, a stewardship committee, and outreach. We will continue to discuss what growth means to us at our upcoming retreat.

As I mentioned before, we will be heading to Hawaii. Wait! I didn't say that! What I meant was... we will be meeting for a few hours at Laura Pephens house (equally exciting, I know). The council agenda for the retreat doesn't seem daunting, but when I consider what we hope to accomplish, I am not certain that we have enough time. We plan to do a SWOT assessment (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats), talk about communication strategies, discuss our outreach goals and how to implement them; we may also discuss our current mission statement (is there a more accurate statement of who we are?). I'll let you know how it goes.

Our retreat is May 15, 2016. Our next council meeting is June 15, 2016 at 5:30 pm in the Fireside Room. We encourage any and all who want to come. We might have snacks! God bless.

Shay Arnett, President; Kirk Goodfellow, Vice President; Jane Porphir, Secretary; Laura Pephens, Treasurer; Ken Gilliland; Donna Vidrine; Pastor Brenda Bos



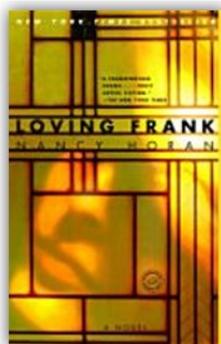
What in the world of WELCA?

WELCA Bible Study will meet Tuesday May 10th at Donna Running's, from 1:00 to 2:30. We invite all CLC women as we study "Mary and Elizabeth, Sisters Across the Generations", not just mere relatives, but also sisters in faith.

For more information e-mail Betty Buck at edbmeb@cox.net or by calling 493-6179.



CLC Book Club



For May, the CLC Book Club will be reading "Loving Frank" by Nancy Horan, with the Frank of the title none other than renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. We'll meet for a potluck supper to discuss the book on Tuesday, May 10, 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room at church. Here's how Amazon describes the novel:

"I have been standing on the side of life, watching it float by. I want to swim in the river. I want to feel the current."

So writes Mamah Borthwick Cheney in her diary as she struggles to justify her clandestine love affair with Frank Lloyd Wright. Four years earlier, in 1903, Mamah and her husband, Edwin, had commissioned the renowned architect to design a new home for them. During the construction of the house, a powerful attraction developed between Mamah and Frank, and in time the lovers, each married with children, embarked on a course that would shock Chicago society and forever change their lives. In this groundbreaking historical novel, fact and fiction blend together brilliantly. While scholars have largely relegated Mamah to a footnote in the life of America's greatest architect, author Nancy Horan gives full weight to their dramatic love story and illuminates Mamah's profound influence on Wright. Drawing on years of research, Horan weaves little-known facts into a compelling narrative, vividly portraying the conflicts and struggles of a woman forced to choose between the roles of mother, wife, lover, and intellectual. Horan's Mamah is a woman seeking to find her own place, her own creative calling in the world, and her unforgettable journey, marked by choices that reshape her notions of love and responsibility, leads inexorably to this novel's stunning conclusion.

Getting to Know You

An “almost monthly” feature of the CLC Newsletter, profiling church members, friends and staff (preschool, too!)



Christ Lutheran's Director of Music Ministry since early 2010, Russell Crabtree was born and raised in Bakersfield, graduated from California State University, Bakersfield with a B.A. in Music and earned an M.F.A. in Vocal Performance from the University of California, Irvine (UCI). Without disparaging his home town, let's just say Russell was really glad graduate school brought him to Orange County (and so are we).

About the time he joined us at CLC, Russell embarked on a second master's at UCI in Choral Conducting while working for one of his professors as a graduate/teaching assistant. He was very appreciative of the opportunity as a graduate assistant to earn this degree “almost free”—important because he was putting his daughter, Rachel, now 28, through UCLA at the same

time. Russell also has a son Ryan, 26, and both his children currently live and work in the O.C. “My favorite job is being a dad,” says Russell.

His other jobs, in addition to directing CLC's Music Ministry and playing the keyboard and piano almost every Sunday (and every so often letting us hear his great voice) and doing administrative work each summer for a company that arranges tours for teens, include teaching voice and piano privately at home and accompanying the El Toro High School concert choir full-time, including at competitions all around the nation.

“I am so blessed because so much of what I do every day involves music,” enthuses Russell. “And music has allowed me to travel worldwide”—especially with Men in Blaque, the vocal performance group he's been singing with for 20 years (with a brief hiatus when his kids were young) “just for the love of music”. With this group, Russell's travels have included Hungary, Bratislava (capital of Slovakia), China, South Korea and Washington, D.C. “One of our times in D.C., we performed at the National Gallery for the reopening of the French Impressionists Wing,” says Russell, “and sang all French music.”

As a U.S. Colonial history buff, Russell has enjoyed visiting the nation's capital on numerous occasions and is an avid reader of history, recently finishing books on George Washington and John Adams. He is a huge Anaheim Ducks ice hockey fan, attending as many games as he can each season. “I'm jealous because my son got to attend two of the recent playoff games against Nashville.” He's hoping that by the time this article appears, the Ducks will be well into the next round against the Sharks. With hockey season winding down, you can find Russell at many an Angels game at the Big A in Anaheim!

Thank you, Russell, for cheering us on here at CLC, sharing your musical gifts with the congregation, on the beach and in the sanctuary, and letting us get to know you a little better.

CHRIST LUTHERAN OUTREACH - SERVING OUR COMMUNITY!

San Clemente Military Family Outreach

Local Military Support Group to Host 4th Annual "Semper Fidei-TEA"

San Clemente Military Family Outreach (SCMFO), a local nonprofit founded in 2002 to support military families at Camp Pendleton, will hold its four annual tea for military spouses on Saturday, May 28, at St. Andrew's by the Sea Methodist Church, which provides office space to the organization.

"We've had a springtime tea, a tea Hawaiian-style, and last year, a British high tea," said event chair Judy Franz. "This year we are planning a mother-child-friend tea, with gifts, goodies bags, special surprises and lovely tea sandwiches and desserts, all provided by local churches, businesses and individuals who want to show our military families how much we appreciate their sacrifices on our behalf."

SCMFO would gratefully accept donations for this moral event, one of many the group holds throughout the year. Gift items in the past have included wine and cheese baskets, beach bags, salon visits and products, scarves and purses, movie passes, etc. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the event or give an item or gift card, please contact Judy at 949-493-3826 or junofranz@aol.com. All gifts are tax deductible.

Red Cross Blood Drive at Christ Lutheran Church

Thank you for taking the time to host a blood drive on Tuesday April 19, 2016. We appreciate it so much. Hosting a blood drive is a selfless act. The effort you made to allow a donor to give the gift of life can mean a lifetime to a patient with a serious medical need.

Your efforts show your generosity, selflessness and dedication to helping others. Those are remarkable traits. With your help we were able to collect 22 pints of blood. Of course, the real winners are the patients in need of blood. As you know each blood donation can help to save up to three lives. Your effort is truly appreciated by the blood recipients, their loved ones and all of us here at the American Red Cross.

Every day, patients throughout the San Clemente area and across the country rely on volunteer blood donors when receiving healthcare. Cancer patients, trauma victims, organ transplant recipients, premature babies, sickle cell disease patients and others may need blood products.

Blood Drive Summary

Presenting Donors: 31

Deferrals: 6

QNS: 1

Other: 2

Total Units Collected: 22 Pints

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on www.redcrossblood.org.



American Red Cross

Treasurer's Report—1st Quarter 2016

Good News! Our performance against the budget is extraordinary and we are on very solid ground. The following are some highlights of the financial picture for the three months ending March 31, 2016:

	<u>3/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/15</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Cash available for operations	86,053	88,319	(2,267)
	<u>3/31/2016</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offerings - Collected	39,831	30,000	9,831
Shepard's Fund - Collected	909	600	309
Benevolence - Spent	(4,478)	(3,726)	(752)
Conferences - Spent	(1,145)	(636)	(509)
Property and Maintenance	(476)	(1,824)	1,348
Salaries	(25,662)	(28,632)	2,970
Net Loss	(2,267)	14,805)	12,538

To recap, we have underspent in comparison to our budget, \$12,538. This is funds saved during our operations for the quarter!

Thanks to all for your generous giving during the quarter! It really makes a difference! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at LPepkens@gmail.com or 949.248.4596.

Laura Pepkens

LA CRISTIANITA PRESCHOOL

From the director...

I know we did this last year—but we can't hear it enough!

Happy Mother's Day!

This is for all the mothers who have sat up all night with sick toddlers in their arms, wiping up barf laced Oscar Mayer weiners and cherry Kool-Aid saying, "It's OK honey, Mommy's here." Who have sat in rocking chairs for hours on end soothing crying babies who can't be comforted.

This is for all the mothers who show up at work with spit-up in their hair and milk stains on their blouses and diapers in their purse. For all the mothers who run carpools and make cookies and sew Halloween costumes. And all the mother's who DON'T.

This is for the mothers who gave birth to babies they'll never see. And the mothers who took those babies and gave them homes.

This is for the mothers whose priceless art collections are hanging on their refrigerator doors. And for all the mothers who froze their buns on metal bleachers at football or soccer games instead of watching from the warmth of their cars. And that when their kids asked, "Did YOU see me, Mom?" they could say, "Of course, I wouldn't have missed it for the world," and mean it.

This is for all the mothers who yell at their kids in the grocery store and swat them in despair when they stomp their feet and scream for ice cream before dinner. And for all the mothers who count to ten instead, but realize how child abuse happens.

This is for all the mothers who sat down with their children and explained all about making babies. And for all the (grand)mothers who wanted to, but just couldn't find the words.

This is for all the mothers who go hungry, so their children can eat. For all the mothers who read "Goodnight Moon" twice a night for a year. And then read it again. "Just one more time." This is for all the mothers who taught their children to tie their shoes before they started school. And for all the mothers who opted for Velcro instead.

This is for all the mothers who teach their sons to cook and their daughters to sink a jump shot.

This is for every mother whose head turns automatically when a little voice calls "Mom?" in a crowd, even though they know their own offspring are at home – or even away at college.

This is for all the mothers who sent their kids to school with stomachaches, assuring them they'd be just FINE once they got there, only to get calls from the school nurse an hour later asking them to please pick them up. Right away.

This is for mothers whose children have gone astray, who can't find the words to reach them. For all the mothers who bite their lips until they bleed when their 14 year olds dye their hair green. For all the mothers of the victims of recent school shootings, and the mothers of those who did the shooting.

This is for all the mothers who taught their children to be peaceful, and now pray they come home safely from a war.

What makes a good mother anyway? Is it patience? Compassion? Broad hips? The ability to nurse a baby, cook dinner, and sew a button on a shirt, all at the same time? Or is it in her heart? Is it the ache you feel when you watch your son or daughter disappear down the street, walking to school alone for the very first time? The jolt that takes you from sleep to dread, from bed to crib at 2 AM to put your hand on the back of a sleeping baby? The panic, years later, that comes again at 2 AM when you just want to hear their key in the door and know they are safe again in your home?

Or the need to flee from wherever you are and hug your child when you hear news of a fire, a car accident, or a child dying? The emotions of motherhood are universal and so our thoughts are for young mothers stumbling through diaper changes and sleep deprivation... And mature mothers learning to let go.

For working mothers and stay-at-home mothers. Single mothers and married mothers. Mothers with money, mothers without.

This for all of you. For all of us...

Hang in there. In the end we can only do the best we can. Tell them every day that we love them. And pray.

Author Unknown

With many blessings,

Leigh Ann Downie

Director

WE'RE ONLINE!

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

This poem was written for the student body of Virginia Tech after the campus shooting in 2007.

We are Virginia Tech.
 We are sad today, and we will be sad for quite a while. We are not moving on, we are embracing our mourning.
 We are Virginia Tech.
 We are strong enough to stand tall tearlessly, we are brave enough to bend to cry, and we are sad enough to know that we must laugh again.
 We are Virginia Tech.
 We do not understand this tragedy. We know we did nothing to deserve it, but neither does a child in Africa dying of AIDS, neither do the invisible children walking the night away to avoid being captured by the rogue army, neither does the baby elephant watching his community being devastated for ivory, neither does the Mexican child looking for fresh water, neither does the Appalachian infant killed in the middle of the night in his crib in the home his father built with his own hands being run over by a boulder because the land was destabilized. No one deserves a tragedy.
 We are Virginia Tech.
 The Hokie Nation embraces our own and reaches out with open heart and hands to those who offer their hearts and minds. We are strong, and brave, and innocent, and unafraid. We are better than we think and not quite what we want to be. We are alive to the imaginations and the possibilities. We will continue to invent the future through our blood and tears and through all our sadness.
 We are the Hokies.
 We will prevail.
 We will prevail.
 We will prevail.
 We are Virginia Tech



Professor Nikki Giovanni speaks at Convocation, April 17, 2007.

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.

Wednesday Centering Prayer

North Beach 7:30 a.m.

Followed by a beach walk.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

6-7 p.m. in the Fireside Room

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

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & LA CRISTIANITA PRESCHOOL**

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Leigh Ann Downie-Economy
 Preschool Director

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