

Christ Lutheran Church

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



February Calendar

Every Tuesday

Bible Study
10:00 a.m.

February 13

WELCA Women's
Bible Study 1:00 p.m.

February 17

President's Day
Church & School Closed

February 19

Council Meeting
Fireside Room 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship

Beach Worship
8:00AM

Sanctuary Service
10:30 AM

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

WHAT IS A LUTHERAN?

A Lutheran is a follower of Jesus Christ, a member of the Christian Church. He or she would be defined as an evangelical Christian. The term evangelical refers to a term Protestants like to use to point out that their faith centers in the good news of what God has done for people in Jesus Christ. Lutherans make up the largest and, among the larger churches, oldest of the groups that are heirs to the Reformation of the Western church four or five centuries ago. There are about ten million Lutherans in the United States.

WHY DO THESE CHRISTIANS CARRY THE NAME LUTHERAN?

Lutherans do not like it that their enemies gave them the name of Martin Luther (1483-1546), nor did Luther welcome such a designation for his fellow believers. But the name 'stuck', so members of the Lutheran Church not only live with it but enjoy remembering by means of it what God did through the sixteenth-century reformer. Sometimes Lutherans like to speak of theirs as the Church of the Augsburg Confession, but they do not stand much chance of getting others to call it that.

WHO WAS MARTIN LUTHER?

He was a fallible, energetic, robust, occasionally crude, never dull German monk who had tried to please God by living the disciplines of a monastery. But he experienced the wrath, not the love of God, for these efforts. A reading of the Bible, particularly the letters of Paul, led him to an experience of God's unmerited goodness. He became a preacher, reformer, church leader, author of scores of books, family man, and proclaimer of the fact that God

forgives people out of love, through Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS THE CORE OR CENTRAL ACCENT?

A code word for the heart of Lutheran belief is the reality of "justification by grace through faith". People do not use the old sense of the word "justification" with much frequency any more. In this phrase, "justification" means that God considers righteous, or makes just, people who make nothing of their own righteousness or justice.

Instead, they accept God's gift of Himself, His love, His activity, in the death and rising again of His son, Jesus Christ. Since no one deserves such love, people are saved by grace. Since they are grasped by it and do not reason or work their way into it, this grace is received 'by faith'.

-Pastor Harvey Anderson

THE WEAVER

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me,
I cannot choose the colors
He worketh steadily.

Oft times He weaveth sorrow,
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I, the underside.

Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reasons why

The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.

-Author Unkown

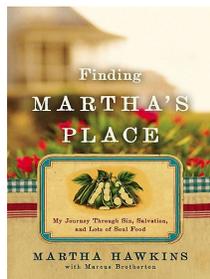
What in the world of WELCA?

Christ Lutheran's WELCA Bible study meets the second Thursday of each month at 1:00p.m. in the Fireside room. "In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women" follows a different woman in the Bible each month, exploring her gifts and talents. This month we will be studying "Woman of Endor, a Seer and Communicator."

The woman or witch of Endor is called on by Saul to contact the dead Samuel on Saul's behalf, for Saul can get no answer from God regarding his fate in battle with the Philistines. But the woman then offers to care for the stricken king. She has a reputation for being able to communicate with the dead and raises questions for us about the living and the dead and the space between the two.



Women are invited to participate in our relaxing, warm, monthly church fellowship. A copy of GATHER is in the Narthex for you to borrow, read and return. The Bible study is on pages 40-45. We hope to see you there!



CLC Book Club Meeting Monday, March 3rd

Our Book Club is growing stronger by the month, with great discussions and potluck dinners that continue to amaze. But the March "good read" and dinner might top them all. We are reading Finding Martha's Place: My Journey Through Sin, Salvation and Lots of Soul Food by Martha Hawkins.

Martha Hawkins was the tenth of twelve children born in Montgomery, Alabama. There was no money, but her childhood was full of love. Her mother could transform a few vegetables from the backyard into a feast and never turned away a hungry mouth. Memories of the warmth of her family's supper table would remain with her. As a poor single mother without a high school diploma, Martha dreamed of one day opening a restaurant that would make people feel at home. She'd serve food that would nourish body and soul. But time went by and that dream slipped further away as Martha battled the onset of what would later become a severe mental illness. But the thing about hitting bottom is that there's nowhere to go but up. Martha decided to step into God's promise for her life. Her boundless faith and joy led her to people who would change her world and lend a helping hand when she most needed and least expected one. Martha's Place is now a nationally known destination for anyone visiting the Deep South and a culinary fixture of life in Montgomery. Martha has proven many times that keeping the faith makes the difference between failure and success. This is the story of how Martha found her place.

Please join us on Monday, March 3, two nights before Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday, at 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Bring some pancakes (traditional on Shrove Tuesday) or a soul food dish for the potluck and join in the fun and fellowship- invite a friend to join us!

CHRIST LUTHERAN OUTREACH - SERVING OUR COMMUNITY!

Many CLC members participate in our first Monday food drive for FAM and make donations throughout the year, but if you've been wanting to get more personally involved with this great organization that helps so many in need in our community, let 2014 be the year! Visit www.family-assistance.org/get-involved to find out more about volunteering. You can download a volunteer application and read about the various opportunities, including tutoring at Gilchrist House, FAM's shelter for women and their children.

San Clemente Military Family Outreach (SCMFO), which Christ Lutheran supports, is hosting a baby shower for 25 expectant military moms on Saturday, Feb. 22nd, and the San Onofre #1 Clubhouse in Camp Pendleton. Needed are baby outfits (0-6 months) for boys or girls (or neutral colors or styles), Target or Walmart gift cards and even some bigger items, like umbrella strollers, diaper bags, or crib sheets/ bumpers/ mobiles. Gifts and gift cards can be dropped off at the church office by Feb. 18 or given to Judy Franz at church on Feb. 2, 9 and 16th. If you'd like to help at the shower or with set-up the day before, let Judy know.

Our church hosted a shower for 8 military moms-to-be a few years ago and it was a truly special experience. Some of us got to see two of the babies at a Thanksgiving event at Camp Pendleton a couple of months later - very sweet. The mothers (and fathers, who are also invited to the SCMFO shower) are so appreciative, as they are usually without close family in the area for this most special time in their lives. This will be a traditional baby shower with games, gifts, good food and lots of love. Plus, all the guests will learn more about the resources available to them through SCMFO. Your support will be such a blessing to all the expectant mothers and fathers. Thank you for helping in any way you can!

-Judy Franz is our Outreach Coordinator and member of the Church Council. You can contact her at 949-493-3826 or junofranz@aol.com

GETTING TO WHAT REALLY MATTERS -ELCA Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

Baptism makes a difference and makes us different...

How are we to live as church first? This is how I see it. At the center of our life together is worship and at the center of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ. When we gather for worship we turn our gaze away from ourselves to the source of our life and hope and salvation. When we gather for worship we are encountered by the living God in Scripture, proclamation of the gospel and the sacraments. God meets us and transforms us. We taste, touch and see the love of God in Christ. Sinners are forgiven. Freed from the incessant human striving for self-justification we can be "lost in wonder, love and praise" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 361).

We need to move beyond reliance on human thinking and strategizing to a place of deep listening - intentional, intense, disciplined attending to God.

We are a community of faith...intentional about incorporating prayer, worship, Scripture study, silence and giving into daily life. We are in the faith formation business; not to get more members, not to get more market share, but to know Christ and Christ Crucified.

We are the church first. All our work flows from this. Let's keep the main thing the main thing.

-Excerpt from The Lutheran, January 2014. The Lutheran is the magazine of the Evangelical Church in America. It is published monthly through Augsburg Fortress for \$19.95. Subscribe online at www.thelutheran.org.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

...Christ Lutheran Church, our congregation and Pastor;

...The staff and families of La Cristianita Preschool;

...Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and the ELCA, Bishop Murray Finck and the Pacifica Synod;

...Those serving in the military and their families.

"Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

WE'RE ONLINE AND ON FACEBOOK

Lost your calendar? Forgot where to park for beach church? Need to contact us? Well now you can stay connected with CLC 24 / 7 through our website and Facebook pages.

Website: www.clcsanclemente.org

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-Lutheran-Church-San-Clemente-CA/241242593620>

BIBLE STUDY EVERY TUESDAY 10 A.M.

Join us in the Fireside Room for our Bible Study with Pastor Harvey. See you there!

**Happy Valentine's Day!**

St. Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more early Christian saints named Valentinus. Modern romantic connotations were added several centuries later by poets.

WELCA WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Women's Bible Study will be focusing on "Woman of Endor, a Seer and Communicator" this month. Please join us at 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room on Thursday, February 13th.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Season of Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday
March 5th, 2014

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & LA CRISTIANITA PRESCHOOL

35522 CAMINO CAPISTRANO

SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92672

CLC Contact Information:

secretary@cbc.occxmail.com

949. 496. 2621

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

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

Leigh Ann Downie (Preschool Director)

leighann@cbc.occxmail.com

949. 496. 1405

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