



# 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.*



## Coming Up

(see details inside)

### March 8

1:00 WELCA  
Bible Study

### March 4

"KONY 2012" at  
Our Savior's

### March 11

Book Club  
Meeting

### March

7, 14, 21 & 28  
Midweek Lenten  
Services

### March 25

One Worship  
Service at 9:30 in  
the Sanctuary

Worship With Us  
Every Sunday in

## March

8:00am on the Beach  
And

10:30 in the Sanctuary

## Pastor's Notes...

The other night Katie and I were watching the evening news and she looked at me and said, "The world is a scary place." She is so right! Saber rattling and threats between Iran and the United States, daily death tolls coming out of Syria, modified bird flu research that has scientists concerned if it were to fall into the wrong hands, a spreading and deadly famine in Africa - it seems everywhere you turn there is more reason for fear and dread, making us wonder, "Is there any hope for the future? Is there a future for me and my family?"

In the midst of such questions it seems that Lent is coming just in the nick of time. Years ago Lent was seen as a time of downcast eyes, fallen countenances, silent and half-lighted sanctuaries, penitential and mournful hymns sounding more appropriate for a funeral than for a Sunday celebration of the resurrection. For forty days the focus was on reflecting on our own death and on the depths of our sinfulness.

But about fifty years ago this began to change. The church began to reclaim the original focus and purpose of Lent which for the early church was a time for faith formation as those who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil were instructed in the faith and what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Candidates for baptism were taught the disciplines of the faith: worship, study, prayer, invite, encourage, serve and give. These

disciplines not only conferred identity but also equipped followers of Christ to proclaim Christ in word and deed in a world that was hostile to Christ.

And so Lent and its original focus comes just in the nick of time in a time that is hostile to Christ and his word of forgiveness, reconciliation, peace and hope and to a people seeking Christ's face and comfort in such dark and frightening times. Faithful practice of the disciplines of faith are the preparations necessary for the facing of the days and weeks before us as they anchor us in the One who has promised that nothing in all of creation – nothing - can ever separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. In baptism God made us God's own and nothing can wrestle us away from God's hand. The disciplines of faith and the keeping of Lent enable us to trust in the One who is our Rock and our Redeemer.

I really need Lent this year. I really need to worship the One who created and claimed me, to study and immerse myself God's saving Word, to pray for our world, to invite and encourage others to cling to Christ and practice the faith, to serve those in need and to give of myself, my time and me treasure. I really need Lent this year, and I bet you do too.

Shalom,  
Pastor Kim

## **FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES** **AT CHRIST LUTHERAN**

**Adult Forum** will meet on Sunday mornings, March 4, 11 and 18, from 9:15 to 10:15. During the Lenten season we are looking at how each Gospel writer uniquely tells the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Of the traditional seven last words of Jesus from the cross, Matthew and Mark contain only one, Luke three and John three – why the Gospel writers included the ones they did gives us a fascinating insight as to how each writer understood Jesus. Join us for conversation and coffee each Sunday.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** 10:00 - 11:00. Join us for good conversation and good coffee as we listen to what the Good Book has to say to us this day. Friends are welcome!

**WELCA Bible Study** Thursday, March 8  
1:00 – 2:30 All women of the congregation are welcome as we study the Gospel of Mark using the 2012 Women of the ELCA's materials. Join us for this time of fellowship and inspiration.

## **LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH** **ONE SERVICE SUNDAY**

March 25 is the last Sunday in Lent, the last Sunday of the month and the last Sunday of our One Service Sundays for the winter season. We will with one voice raise our songs of praise and thanksgiving to the Giver of all good things at 9:30 am and then celebrate our life together with a brunch and fellowship immediately following. Watch your bulletin for details as to how you can help with the brunch.

## **WORSHIP IN MARCH**

Our worship in Lent reflects the focus of Lent on the promise made to us in baptism and a life lived in response to that promise. And so in our worship we will:

+Focus on the cross and baptism as we make the sign of the cross at the beginning and end of our worship, reminding us of the sign and seal of our baptisms and of who and whose we are;

+Focus on prayer by using a “bidding prayer” during the Prayers of God's People that includes a time of silence after each petition so we might offer our own spoken or silent prayers, and use of an alternate version of the Lord's Prayer from our hymnal to encourage mindful saying of this prayer it is so easy to say by rote;

+Focus on the fast as we forego our alleluias until Easter dawn;

+Focus on compassion and care for the hungry through use of Family Assistance Ministry's blue or black bags to help restock their shelves with non-perishable items to be distributed to those in our community in need. In addition, offerings from our midweek Lenten services will also go to FAM.

Keeping Lent prepares us to welcome Easter with an authentic and hope-filled joy and delight!

**NEW MEMBERS**

Christ Lutheran will receive new members on Palm Sunday, April 1. If you would like to formally join the congregation at this time, please let Pastor Kim know by March 11.

**CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS****At its February meeting your Church Council:**

- +Welcomed new members Keith Baumgarn, Mary Monasmith and Kaye Tyson and elected Brenda Brashears as president, Keith Baumgarn as vice-president and Kaye Tyson as secretary;
- +Established an 8:00 Worship Committee and a 10:30 Worship Committee to address needs at each service;
- +Appointed Tom Whitman, Mary Monasmith and Leigh Ann Downie to the Merger Exploratory Committee and reminded ourselves that this committee's work is for the "worse case scenario" if the congregation does not step up financially and with greater involvement. Merger is not a done deal unless we make it so by our inaction. This group plans to begin meeting in March.

*Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 20 at 5:50 pm so as to not conflict with Soup Supper and Study. All members are invited.*

**INVISIBLE CHILDREN****PRESENTS "KONY 2012"**

**Sunday, March 4, 6:00pm—7:00pm**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
200 Avenida San Pablo, San Clemente.**

Invisible Children is an international organization working to assist Central African communities defend themselves against Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army, a brutal rebel group responsible for Africa's longest running armed conflict of more than three decades. The key to the LRA's continued survival has been the kidnapping of children who are conscripted into their ranks, a number that has reached over 30,000 according to UN reports. Since 2003, Invisible Children has used the power of film and advocacy to educate and inspire people to action. Their mission is to stop Kony's war, rescue former child soldiers, and establish economic and educational initiatives to help these victims of war rebuild their lives.

**LOOKING AHEAD****Our Holy Week schedule will be:**

- Maundy Thursday Worship  
April 5 at 7:00 pm
- Good Friday Worship  
April 6 at 7:00 pm
- Easter Sunday Worship  
April 8:  
6:30 and 8:00 am at North Beach  
10:30 in the Sanctuary

**MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES*****“Wrestling with Angels”*****March 7, 14, 21 and 28****6:00 to 7:30 pm**

As he prepared to face his brother and face up to his past, Jacob wrestled with an angel that left him with a limp, but also with a new name and purpose. We too often find ourselves wrestling with questions that can nag and hold us back and steal from us God’s promised life abundant. Struggling with these questions can cripple us, but they can also provide a first step to healing and wholeness and faith. This Lent we will do a little wrestling of our own with these questions. Our discussion each week will be sparked by the video comments of several well-known and respected Christian thinkers as they reflect on issues raised by real people in their struggles.

**OUR TOPICS WILL BE:**

- March 7** Why: If God is so good why are things so awful?  
**March 14** Prayer: Why don’t my prayers get answered?  
**March 21** Forgiveness: How do I forgive and get on with my life?  
**March 28** Guidance: How do I know what to do?

Each evening will start with a simple meal at 6:00 pm. Our study will begin at 6:30 and conclude with prayer by 7:30. Since both meal and study will take place in the sanctuary you can come late, get a bite to eat and still participate in the discussion. Sign up in the back of the church to help with the meals.



**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

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

... Karen Anderson's friend Harry, recovering from brain surgery;  
 ... friends of Jane Porphir, Linda and Carla;  
 ... Linda Kopperud, recovering from knee surgery;  
 ...continuing prayers for Rosemary Sater, Matthew Wild, Dorothy Alvord and Lennie Kopperud;  
 ...those serving in the military and their families;  
 ...Bishop Mark Hansen and the ELCA, Bishop Murray Finck and the Pacifica Synod, Pastor Kim and our congregation;  
 ...the staff and families of La Cristianita Preschool.

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

**BOOK CLUB**

We will meet on Sunday, March 11, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm for a potluck and discussion of The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton. Bring a dish to share and a friend – all are welcome (even if you haven't read the book)!

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

Chris Ontiveros	March 8
Judy Franz	March 10
Jennifer Steen	March 13
Marilyn Hemingway	March 16
Sarah Wild	March 20
Dave Wild	March 21
Ellen Bodas	March 29
Erling Syversrud	March 29

**FYI: EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR PASTOR KIM & CLC STAFF**

Pastor Kim Eifert Krogstad  
[pastorkim@cbc.occoxmail.com](mailto:pastorkim@cbc.occoxmail.com)

Wendy Ruffner (office)  
[secretary@cbc.occoxmail.com](mailto:secretary@cbc.occoxmail.com)

Leigh Ann Downie (preschool)  
[leighann@cbc.occoxmail.com](mailto:leighann@cbc.occoxmail.com)

[www.clcsancllemente.org](http://www.clcsancllemente.org)