



Dear members and friends of CLC,

Thank you for a wonderful celebration of ministry last Sunday at our Annual meeting. God is moving through your prayers, your service, and your giving to touch so many hearts and lives in our community and beyond.

At the beginning of my report I shared with you some bad news and then some good news. As I meet with our leaders this month and throughout the year, I will be encouraging both **reflection** on this new reality we are facing as a church, and **prayer** leading to action. God is calling us as a church to reach each new generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and, like never before, we are facing challenges that will require faithful **reflection** and **prayer** leading to action. In case you missed it, here is a quick summary from the beginning of my report:

By all accounts the church in North America is experiencing a forty-year decline in affiliation and worship attendance. According to Pew Research, four in ten Americans between the ages of 23 and 38 now say they are religiously unaffiliated, the biggest drop between generations ever recorded. In the past the trend was that many young people who married returned to church for the purpose of teaching their children morality. Today, we are not seeing the same return as in previous generations. Only 2 in 10 millennials consider church attendance important.

So what lesson can we take from these trends? First, the bad news: As a whole, the church in North America is losing a generation of young churchgoers, and they are not likely to come back unless changes are made.

The good news: We know the difference parents and a church can make together when Jesus is the center and our faith guides us into lives of love for God and our neighbor. Love attracts. Love seeks the lost and brings them home. Love leads us to give and serve and pray. Even in the storms of life that we all face, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

On Sunday, I shared that there are encouraging signs of God's work among us, starting with these six core commitments:

- Jesus is the center
- Warm community touches the soul
- Young people are prioritized in the life of our congregation
- We empathize with young people, listening not judging
- We serve as neighbors to our community and beyond, including Baja
- Leadership roles are shared so that youth serve with their God-given gifts

Where these things are taking place, God is making a difference in youth and their families. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, my prayer is that we continue to reach out with God's redeeming love, teach, and make disciples of Jesus in each generation. Please reflect and pray, that we each might answer the call to offer our gifts so that all may "have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

TREASURER'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2019

	2019	2019
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Receipts—Offerings	\$383,745	\$387,400
Net Receipts—Preschool	161,440	174,131
Receipts—Other	<u>37,919</u>	<u>18,300</u>
Total Receipts	\$583,104	\$579,831
Total Operating Expenditures (Non-Preschool)	(535,571)	(531,831)
Excess Receipts over Expenditures (Net Operating Income)	<u>\$ 47,533</u>	<u>\$ 48,000</u>
Loss on Sale of Stock	(35)	(0)
Transfers to Dedicated Accounts	<u>(48,000)</u>	<u>(48,000)</u>
Total Net Revenue	<u>(502)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

Date	Attendance	Offerings
Dec. 1	162	\$ 2,222
Dec. 8	160	\$ 6,272
Dec. 15	212	\$ 3,465
Dec. 22	206	\$ 3,974
Dec. 29	74	\$ 2,076
Advent/Xmas Eve		\$ 2,775
Year End Mailing		\$ 6,100
EFT Offer.		\$18,910
Totals	814	\$45,794

Liquid assets available to meet expenses totaled \$33,571 on 12/31/2019 (excludes dedicated funds).

Offering income was \$4,794 more than budgeted for December and was \$3,655 less than budgeted for 2019.

Preschool net income was \$45 less than budgeted for December and was \$12,691 less than budgeted for 2019.

Other Receipts included specified gifts of \$243 for the Building Fund, \$100 for Quilting, \$50 for the Good Samaritan Fund, \$350 for the Paschal candle replacement and \$363 for the Siloe. Charitable grants were \$14,652 greater than budgeted for 2019.

Non-Preschool Operating Expenses were \$61 less than budgeted for December and \$3,740 more than budgeted for 2019. All categories were less than budgeted or within \$300 except:

Professional: Expenses were \$546 more than budgeted for December. A substitute pastor was used for 2 Sundays at a cost of \$477; however, expenses for the year were \$26 less than budgeted.

Transfers for December included \$4,000 to the building fund from the preschool funds.

Detailed information is available upon request from Tracy Cantin (treasurerclcrsm@gmail.com).

Vanco Online Offerings: You can now setup monthly or weekly offerings right on our website. You can also make a “one-time” donation there. Funds can be transferred from your bank account or charged to your debit or credit card. Try out the free mobile app too: It’s called GIVE+ Mobile. You can also text an offering to 855-949-0112. If you need any help with your online giving, please contact Tracy at treasurerclcrsm@gmail.com.



Ash Wednesday Worship
February 26th
7:00PM

CLC Council Meeting Highlights January 15, 2020

- CLC had a year of healthy and faithful giving: members have supported CLC and beyond through ELCA missions, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, Baja Mission partners and helping to make progress on paying down the church mortgage.
- A warm thank you to outgoing members of the Council: Scott Leland, John Sullivan, Keith Shelley. Looking forward to working with the three new nominees for the Council: Pat Mulhaupt, Deborah Sundberg, Kyle Kermodae.
- Upcoming events: February 15-17 Senior High winter camp. February 26 - 7 PM Ash Wednesday. March 1 - First Sunday in Lent. March 4 - First Soup Supper and Lenten service.

Youth and Family Ministry Update

Hello from our Youth and Family ministries! We're looking forward to a great 2020!

One way I love to start my day is to spend time with God. It always starts my day off on the right foot. It helps me focus my day of what is true and real. No matter what might be going on in my life when I spend my mornings in prayer, the word, and devotion, I feel refreshed and ready for whatever the day might have in store for me. I know that God is walking alongside me and that joy is always there with me.

This year with Sr. High youth during Tuesday night youth group, we discovered a new prayer practice that gives us all a great way to begin and end our days. I would like to share this with you. My prayer for our church family is that you find time and space to spend with our Heavenly Father. It is sometimes a gift that I overlook. I hope together we can all discover new ways to slow down and be present with God.

This is called the daily reply prayer. I encourage you to find a comfortable space and time during the day where you can practice this prayer.

1. Become aware of God's presence.

Where has God been at work in my life today?

2. Review the day with gratitude.

Which conversations are encouraging words am I thankful for?

3. Pay attention to your emotions.

Is there anything that is making me feel anxious or sad that I can talk with someone about?

4. Forgive and ask for forgiveness.

What forgiveness do I need to ask of God so that I can fully experience the gift of peace?

5. Look toward tomorrow.

What would I like to do differently tomorrow?

Peace and Joy in Christ,

Josiah Canto, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Youth & Family Activities and Events



Sunday School For All Ages!

9:45-10:30am

For Ages Preschool Through Sr. High

Our Sunday school takes place between services and is a wonderful place for children and youth to grow in faith, sing, serve, and make new friends in a safe and fun environment.

Sunday School meets every Sunday. Drop off and pick both take place in the big room.

Sr. High meets in the youth room located in the back of the church office.

KNO (Kids Night Out)

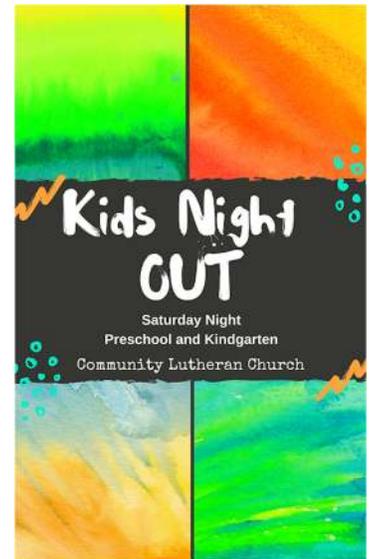
Saturday, February 8th

5PM -8PM

For Ages Preschool and Kindergarten

KNO is a fun evening for kids to play, sing, and learn about Jesus with loving and caring adult and youth volunteers. Kids are provided with dinner, snacks, drinks, and a movie!

The cost is \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child in your family.



JAM (Jesus and Me)

Friday, February 14th

5PM – 8PM

For 1st -3rd Graders



JAM is a fun evening for kids to play, get to know each other and learn about Jesus in a safe and trusting environment. Kids are provided dinner, games and crafts! The cost is \$5 per child.

Fearless

Friday, February 14th
5PM – 8PM
For 4th-5th Graders

Fearless is a fun-filled evening for upper elementary aged youth which helps strengthen their connection with each other and with Christ. Dinner and dessert will be provided. Each session will be Christ-centered through games, service, activities, and crafts. The cost is \$5 per child.



Jr. High Confirmation

Wednesday Evenings, February 5th and 12th
6PM-8PM
For 6th-8th Graders

Our Confirmation ministry provides a place for Jr. High age youth to come together to learn and grow in their faith through learning, service, fellowship and relationship building. It helps youth begin to form stronger and deeper connections and relationships with one another and mentors.

Sr. High Youth group

Tuesday Evenings
7PM-8:30PM
For 9th-12th Graders

Youth group is a great way to stay connected, build relationships, and grow in faith. It creates a safe space where youth can come together and be real and honest with each other. It creates an opportunity to get away from the “busyness” that engulfs high school students every day, to share one’s joys and frustrations, and to let them know that they will not be judged.





Youth Winter Retreats

Sr. High Winter Retreat at Camp Luther Glen! February 15th-17th

Come to a Winter Retreat, where you will be given a deeper understanding of the God that has already named and claimed you with a love too abundant to comprehend.

Saturday - Monday retreat run from 4 pm on Saturday through brunch on Monday. The winter retreat, located in Oak Glen, CA. It is a two-hour drive that takes us on the 10 up through Redlands and Yucaipa, into the mountains of Oak Glen.

The cost is \$155 and is due February 7th.

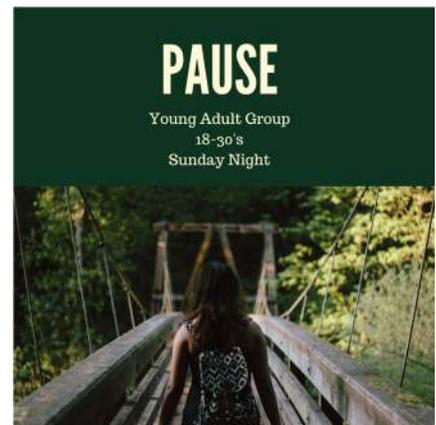
Please feel free to reach out to Josiah with any questions or concerns.

Friends are always welcome!

Young Adults Pause For Ages 18-30's

Sunday Evenings
7PM-8:30PM

This is a group where we can come together and pause, slow down and connect and share. This is a safe and loving community where we can have conversation, laughter and listen to one another. We hope you can join! Text Josiah for location, 661-342-7950.



Baja Missions Outreach

Saturday, February 15th

This month we will be visiting both Door of Faith Orphanage and the Siloé Wellness Center. Here is an opportunity to learn about another culture. We will learn more about Door of Faith and get a chance to play with the kids. We will have the chance to help with projects and make lunch as well.

Please continue to keep the Door of Faith and Siloé staff in your prayers. They each have wonderful and dedicated staff members that give much of their lives to serving others. Pray that God continues to work through them and give them strength to continue doing the good work, yet that they find time to relax and breathe.

We will continue with our laundry detergent and floor cleaner ministry for Door of Faith. We welcome all donations of detergent and cleaners.

If you are planning on coming on this trip, please let us know by Monday, February 10th. Share with your friends and family! All are welcome, and if you know anyone that would like to receive our Baja email, please let me know and we'll add them.



Cost: \$35 for the first person, \$20 for the second person in a family and a maximum of \$75 per family.

Baja Mission Youth Summer Trip Join Us February 9th for Details!

Looking to make a difference this summer? Join CLC for our Baja Mission Youth Summer Trip.

We will be having our first informational session on February 9th after second service (12 PM in the church).

Trip Dates: June 18 – 21, 2020

Who Can Attend: All high school thru college students

Watch the following video for a great look at what the trip will include:

<http://bit.ly/bajayouthtrip>

Email elkehirschman@gmail.com for any questions. See you on February 9th!

RSM Food Pantry (Service Opportunity)

Come Empty - Leave Filled!

All are welcomed! Fresh Vegetables, fruits, meat, juice, dairy, canned goods, & cereal. No one is turned away!

Volunteers welcomed from 10:30am to 5pm. We need your Time, Treasures & Talents! Spread the news - Make a difference in your community! We all know someone in need!



**Wednesdays, February 5th & February 19th
10:30am-5pm**

Be a part of this great service to the community of RSM and the surrounding communities in Orange County. The RSM Food Pantry needs help with sorting, organizing and passing out groceries to anyone in need. This is open to anyone and everyone, come after school, there is always a need for helping hands!

Located at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 30605 Avenida de los Flores, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

CLC Potluck Lunch

Join us on February 23
from Noon - 2pm
for a potluck lunch on the patio. This is just for fun!



Parish Life will provide drinks, paper goods etc. and grilled to order hot dogs with an array of toppings. But what makes a potluck really special is the variety of dishes brought by the congregation so feel free to bring whatever you wish whether it's a main dish, side, or dessert! To help gather momentum we'll have a sign-up sheet on the table and also online. You can view your CLC email for the online link.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b44aba82ba64-clcpotluck>

We've got something else special planned for the day.....Pancake Races! This activity is for all ages and just as fun to watch if you don't feel like participating. We're looking forward to some good food, good company and a lot of laughs together!

“Travel” To Madagascar

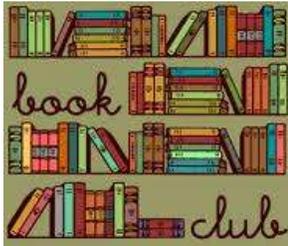
Come join us as John De Ruiter (the Rick Steves of CLC) takes us on a “free trip” to Madagascar by sharing his famous travel photos.

Sunday February 9th @ 4:30pm
21322 Canea, Mission Viejo

His home is in the Palmia residential gated community. Enter the gate at Promenade. Inform the guard you are going to the DeRuiter home.

The only things you need to bring are your ooohs and aaaahs...and lots of questions. A light dinner will be provided.

RSVP to Kathy Anderson
Kathyquilter1217@gmail.com
970.776.9074



Book Club

The Book Club is meeting on Monday, February 10th at 7:00pm in the **CLC office** to discuss ***A Bridge Across the Ocean*** by Susan Meissner. This book tells the story of how wartime affects the lives of women living in two different times. We meet Annaliese and Simone who are fleeing Europe in 1946 and traveling to the US to find new lives but only one of them makes it to America. We also meet Brette, living in modern times, who is drawn in to the mystery that transpired decades earlier.

March Book:

March 9

The Wonder

by Emma Donoghue

We invite anyone who has read these books to join us for some conversation and fun. The CLC Book Club reads a wide variety of books and welcomes all readers along with book suggestions. Please contact Julie Draper or a member of the Book Club for more information.

🧵🧵 A NEW DECADE OF QUILTING 🧵🧵

We were thrilled to have made 85 quilts last year. As you know, the funds for the ones purchased are used to obtain supplies for the next year.

This year we are going to add some SPECIAL REQUEST QUILTS. If you would like a quilt for Christmas.....or one in the colors of your favorite high school, college or sports team.....or a Disney quilt.....let us know. The costs of these special requests will be \$75. There will be only 20 of these quilts available!!!

OUR PRIMARY MISSION is making quilts for Lutheran World Relief to be distributed worldwide. That is foremost in our minds.

THANK YOU for all you do to support this mission. We were recently blessed by receiving a \$350 gift from a non-member who believes strongly in our ministry. By the way, if you have any 100% cotton material or twin FLAT sheets, we will put them to good use!!!

There is always room for more to join us at our next “work-fun” gathering on Monday February

24 from 9-12 or 6-8 in the sanctuary. Come check it out....we'd  to welcome you.

If you have any questions or suggestions.... contact:

Kathy Anderson 970.776.9074
Christy Riley 949.230.5617

What is Stephen Ministry Training?



The Stephen Ministry Series, for which Community Lutheran is actively involved with, benefits many others besides those who receive the care of their Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Ministers grow greatly as they learn about helping others—and they learn about themselves. As the hurting members of our congregation grow stronger through this caring ministry, the whole church is built up and made stronger.

stronger. And, of course, we all can have the knowledge that when the pains of life come our way, someone will always be there ready to care for us to bring God's love to us in a special, personal way. Perhaps God is calling you to be one of these caring, committed servants who offer Christ's love to those who are hurting.

We are proud to announce that on February 16th, Gay Chessell and Kevin Peterson will begin participation in the seven-day Leader's Training Course for the Stephen Series held locally in Anaheim. At the training course, they will learn to train people here at Community Lutheran to be Stephen Ministers. Watch for further information upon their return on how you can become a Stephen Minister. We intend to have our next training series this Fall.

Prayer Requests

Please send your prayer requests to Pastor Marty by email or write them on the yellow slips of paper in the Welcome Notebooks and place them in the offering plate. Pastor Marty's email is pastormartyclcrsm@gmail.com



Caught Serving..... A Special Thanks To:

- The Parish Life Crew and others who took down the Christmas decorations.
- Scott Leland, Keith Shelley, and John Sullivan for their service on church Council.
- Rich Robbins for replacing ballasts and light bulbs in the Saddleback Children's Center classrooms.



Lutheran Saddleback Children's Center Preschool News

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year opens February 18, 2020. We have openings in our pre-school, pre-kindergarten, and junior kindergarten programs for children 2 1/2 - 5 years old. For our youngest preschoolers, we can assist with toilet training!

Saddleback Children's Center has been educating early learners for over 30 years. We promote hands-on learning in a Christian centered environment and have an excellent outdoor education program bolstered by our proximity to O'Neill Regional Park. Come check us out. We have full day, extended day, and morning classes available, but they fill up fast!

Celebrating February Birthdays

Brian Cantin	2/1	Mike Dennard	2/13
Tori Ninde	2/3	Louis McClure	2/16
Michael Kohn, Jr.	2/4	Sara Peak	2/16
Brianna Trombley	2/4	Ellen Hutton	2/17
Ashley Notthoff	2/5	David Nelson	2/17
Robby Hadley	2/6	Debbie Berg	2/18
Milan Kolenicka	2/7	Keith Gurnard	2/20
David Barry	2/8	Keith Borgschatz	2/21
Amanda McDaniel	2/8	Izaiah Watkins	2/21
Zachary Bullock	2/9	Nancy Callanan	2/23
Jimmy Venlet	2/9	Thomas Gervais	2/25
Andrew Yang	2/9	Ruth Lehmann	2/25
Daniel Gervais	2/10	Turid Rudge	2/26
Jim McGregor	2/10	Courtney Tveit	2/26
Lee Ann Mudrock	2/10	Lissa Sullivan	2/27
Vanessa Stroud	2/12	Alexandra Mowery	2/28

