



Community Lutheran Church
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COMMUNITY NEWS

January 2009

Pastor's Message

"Yesterday's News"

"Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:13b-14

Mr. Brad Brewer, back in the 80's was hired as the director of Arnold Palmer's Golf Academy. One evening he was invited over to Mr. Palmer's house for dinner. When he arrived Mrs. Palmer greeted Brad and told him that Arnold will be down in a few minutes. Brad then asked Mrs. Palmer if he could see the "trophy room"? "After all, he said, with 92 tour wins that must be some room!" Mrs. Palmer told Brad that they did not have such a room.

Later that evening Brad had an opportunity to ask Arnold palmer about not having a trophy room. Arnold replied, "For what? That's yesterday's news!"

After a brief pause, Arnold explained how he enjoyed his life on tour and appreciated each and every win. He mentioned how he celebrated on Sunday evenings after the win but come Monday morning he was no different than any other guy on tour. If he was to remain competitive he must get his thoughts off of yesterday and focus on today.

We will probably never have an opportunity to play the pro golf tour. We do have the opportunity to gain some insight and learn an important lesson from those who do, especially Mr. Arnold Palmer. What he learned about the game and remaining competitive is not too unlike what God tells us about our condition and who we have been called to be. Let me put it another way.

By the time you read this, Christmas is past and the year 2008 has ended. It may have been an extraordinary year for you. It may have been a difficult year for you. Regardless of what kind of year it had been, it is over, in the past, yesterday's news. All too often we allow our past to infect the present. If it was a good year we may tend to want to relive it, remain in it, and try to savor its glory. If it had been a difficult year, we might try to run from it, deny its existence, or pretend that it makes little difference for us today. But the fact that we draw attention to it tells us that it affects our present. In other words, we must not build a "trophy room".

God did not call us to wallow in our past glories, to bask in some moment in order to make ourselves feel important. Nor did God call us to run from or pretend that the past did not happen at all. But having said that, it is equally important, if not more important; to face the challenges of each day and embrace them in a way that furthers the good news of Christ. In other words, whatever happened in 2008, that is yesterday's news! It is time to move ahead! Let us press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

Happy New Year!

Pastor Greg



Treasurer's Report

	November	YTD
Receipts—Offerings	\$ 37,435	\$ 343,620
Receipts—Preschool Tuition	71,821	724,387
Receipts---Building Fund	75	66,210
Receipts—Other	785	7,630
Receipts-Contingency Reserve Used	<u>0</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 110,116	\$1,143,847
Total Expenditures	<u>(101,921)</u>	<u>(1,166,927)</u>
Excess Receipts over Expenditures	<u>8,195</u>	<u>(23,080)</u>

Date	Attendance	Offerings
Nov 2	272	\$ 7,998
Nov 9	219	\$ 6,110
Nov 16	260	\$ 7,879
Nov 23	205	\$ 5,145
Nov 30	<u>235</u>	\$ 6,818
EFT Offer.		<u>\$ 3,485</u>
Total	1,191	\$37,435

Cash Balance Available for Current Expenses
after reserves

\$ 41,185

Contingency Reserve Balance

\$ 19,279

Offering income was \$985 more than November's budgeted \$37,435. The Building Fund has a negative \$8,788 balance at the end of November.

Expenses were \$1,552 more than budgeted for November. All categories were within \$1,000 of budget except: SCC Support Payments: Transfers were \$2,791 more than budgeted. Actual amounts were based on the preschool's 2008-09 budget, which was revised to add additional staff.

Detailed information is available upon request from Tracy Cantin, 589-4211.



Church Council Board

President's Letter

Reflections

As I write this we are all still waiting in eager anticipation of Christmas. The choir finished our final rehearsal for the Cantata, the kids practiced their pageant, the last church supper of the year was enjoyed by all, and Pastor Greg's fabulous drawing at the Advent service revealed its reminder of the Reason for the Season – God's promise of hope fulfilled in the birth of his Son.

But as you read this, the packages under the tree will all have been opened, the cheerful carols sung, the candles of Christmas Eve snuffed, and the holiday lights and decorations all stored safely away. Christmas 2008 will be a memory and 2009 will be underway.

As I reflect on the past year at CLC, I see the wonderful ways we have been blessed and how we have blessed one another. The new patio has been the site of many wonderful fellowship events, and its future remains bright. So too is the future life of the congregation. The new church council members are excited and filled with plans for the upcoming year. I know as I leave the council that the stewards that have been chosen by you to guide our congregation into the future are confident, capable and caring individuals who will build a strong leadership team. I pray that all of us in the congregation will help make their tasks easier by giving graciously of our time, talents and financial support.

Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president this past year. It has been a privilege and joy. Wishing you all God's peace in 2009 and always,

Yours in Christ,

Erika Jelovsek

Youth & Family Board



Confirmation

Class will resume on Wednesday, January 7th! See you there at 6:30pm!

High School Youth Group

Youth group starts again on January 7th! Woohoo! We meet at 7:40pm in the choir room and dismiss at 9:00pm! See you there!

Pizza & Movie Night- Middle School & High School!

Join us in the sanctuary on Sunday night, January 11th at 5:00pm for pizza and a fun movie! Cost is \$3 for pizza. Boys- bring a dessert to share; girls- bring a drink to share! Bring a friend and your pizza is free!

High School Bowling Night!

Let's go bowling! Join us for a fun night of bowling at Saddleback Lanes on Friday night, January 23rd from 5pm-7pm. We'll order pizza and have prizes for a few fun categories! Bring a friend! Cost is \$15.

Bible Verse for January

Blessed be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

Book Club

When you finish reading a good book, would you just love to talk to someone about it? This group has been meeting for nearly 2 years now and we enjoy the reading and the discussions and fellowship. Our January meeting will be Monday January 12 at 7pm at church and we are reading The Shack by William P. Young. The Last Lecture by Randy Pausche is in February and Girl Meets God by Lauren Winner in March.

Young@♥ will meet on January 4th at 5pm at the church. Hosting are the Andersons. Watch for the flyer.

Quilting

Lutheran World Relief Quilters will work on Monday January 26 at 6pm. We NEED more people who love FUN and to help others, to help us with tying the quilts. NO sewing skills are needed, we just tie the quilts. We also need people who would like to sew quilt tops at home. They need to be 60" x 80" and we can cut squares or stripes for you, please talk to Brenda Wiles or Mary Stohlman for details.

Attention

A member of the CLC family needs help with meals! Julie Melberg will be in bed for the rest of her pregnancy and we are going to schedule dinners to be delivered to her on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you can help! Questions, talk to Mary Stohlman.

With Heartfelt Thanks

This Christmas just past and we were blessed with God's love, filled with His peace and remembered by so many of you. The staff of Community Lutheran Church would like to especially thank You for all the gifts and cards and expressions of Christmas joy shared with us this Holy Season. And we thank you for your involvement in the ministry of CLC. In His Peace, The Staff; Pastor Greg, Mary, Alison, MaryAnn, Linda, Julie, Becky and Grant

Brewing Faith and Coffee According to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), some 20 million coffee farmers in Africa, Asia and Latin America often struggle to make a simple living and lack adequate health care and education for their children. One way Lutherans are supporting coffee farmers is by purchasing coffee directly from farmers in a process called "Fair Trade." Fair Trade Coffee is for sale on the first Sunday of each month after worship services and at other times from Mary Stohlman.

Reminder-As of January 1st 2009, the monthly Newsletter will be posted on the website on or about the 25th of each preceding month. If anyone wants to receive the Newsletter by regular mail please notify the office.



Stephen Ministry

Consider Anew What the Almighty Can Do

January can be a time of new beginnings and new hope for the future. It can also be a time to face a new year of personal loss, a declining economy or the fear of an unknown future. Out of unconditional love, God has provided many resources for us in the good times and in the bad times. God's presence and strength can be found in worship, scripture, prayer, and in the fellowship of our church family. When you need someone to listen in total confidentiality, offer prayer and encouragement and be a Christian friend, our Stephen Ministers stand ready to serve as that resource for you. If you feel God is calling you to offer your gifts in this ministry, perhaps this is the year you will volunteer to be a Stephen Minister. Contact Mary Stohlman, 858-0307, or Pat Elliot, 888-1756 for more information.

Men's Group monthly planning meeting and fellowship hour... if you think last months meeting was exciting, wait until you see what happens this month!!! Thursday January 8, 2008 location to be announced.

Prayer Chain Christmas is past, but the story lingers in our ♥'s and minds. Do you wonder what the shepherds in the fields thought about?, prayed about?, especially after hearing the angels say "go to Bethlehem"? Want some help to focus your prayers? Join the CLC web based prayer chain.

Members of CLC pray regularly for family, friends and members who are struggling each day with life and the circumstances of life. If you want to be a part of the prayer chain, e-mail Mary Stohlman at mstohlmn@yahoo.com.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2007 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church.

Member to Member Business Directory

In order to help members of CLC through these tough economic times, Christy Riley is compiling a Member to Member Business directory. If you have a full- or part-time business, including babysitting services, you will be entered by category into this directory free of charge. Place your business card in a box labeled - M 2 M Business directory in the narthex throughout the whole month of January. Along with your card attach a *brief* synopsis of your business or if you do not have a business card, put an index card with the same information. If you have any questions, contact Christy at (949) 589-8763.

Women of the Word

The WOW 2nd Annual Christmas Auction held on December 4th was a big success. The event was held at Christy Riley's home, delicious holiday snacks were prepared and enjoyed by all the women who attended. The auction items everyone brought were all wonderful, the items ranged from homemade goodies, Christmas decorations and even a handmade quilt. The Women's group raised a lot of money, and exceeded our amount from last year. The WOW committee will set aside some of this money and purchase gift cards for needy families in the area. **We are playing Bunco on Thursday night, January 15th, 7pm at the church.**

New Years Resolutions! Did you make any this year? How about being a Sunday Worship volunteer!! We need counters to count and deposit the offering, readers for the lessons, communion servers, ushers, greeters, children's church leaders, Sunday School teachers, and cantors to help lead worship. Mark the worship notebook if you would like to help or see Mary Stohlman.

Wednesday Night Dinners

Our last dinner was held on December 17th and we will discontinue them during January and February due to the unpredictable weather. They will resume on May 6th. In the interim we will have our traditional "Soup Suppers" during Lent, starting March 4th through April 1st.

Property Committee

Just a quick note of thanks to all that helped around the church, classrooms and property over the past 12 months. I hope your Christmas was a joyous event and that you have a safe New Year. 2009 will have many new challenges for us but with your continued dedication and support our facility will be much more attractive and better maintained than ever before. Thanks again!

In His service, Mark Totman

A GREAT BIG **Thank You** to everyone who donated and collected coats for our annual coat drive. With weather like this, it's nice to imagine someone is much warmer thanks to our efforts.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

Community Lutheran Church of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, strives to glorify God by building a spirit of community. We aspire to be a home within God's community as we seek to return the love, grace, and forgiveness that God has first given us.

- **Our ministries promote a spirit of community through large and small groups engaging in prayer, study, fellowship and service.**
- **Our education strengthens faith and broadens our understanding of the purpose that God has for each of us as we live in community.**
- **Honoring our Lutheran heritage we are an open and welcoming community in our worship which preaches the Gospel that challenges and stimulates; which offers prayers that raise our shared and individual concerns, needs, and joys; and which provides music that touches both the heart and mind.**
- **We reflect our commitment to hospitality and commitment by providing a place for the gathering of God's people, for bringing life and hope through the continued expansion and enhancement of our facility.**
- **As a community of faith, we are called by Christ and compelled by our baptism to share our bread, and to pour out our lives in service to others as Christ poured out himself to us.**

In everything we do we return the love, grace and forgiveness that God has first given us.

January 2009– Service in Worship

Worship Times 8:15am and 10:45am

Please arrange for a substitute if you will not be available on the date you're scheduled for.

A: Acolyte R: Lay Reader G: Greeter C: Cantor L: Lay Communion Assistants U: Ushers CC: Children's Church CT: Counters

<i>January</i> <i>4</i>	8:15am CC: Elaine Anderson/Kelsey Engel A: Randy Allen/Cassie Allen R: Bob Close G: Paige Atkinson C: James Elmore L: Bob Close/Pat Mulhaupt/Elaine Anderson U: Bruce Atkinson/Sean Whitaker/Mark Ellis CT: JimWasik/Dave Hallgren	10:45am CC: Julie Mortenson A: Christian Halvorsen/Brandon Manock R: Phyllis Nelson G: Cindy Hilburn C: Holly Elmore L: Phyllis Nelson/Mary Stohlman/Pat Moy U: Dave Nelson/Dave Trombley/Velda Pagel CT: Sandra Williams/Karen Mooney
<i>January</i> <i>11</i>	8:15am CC: Sara Wissmueller KID'S CHOIR A: Rayna Leland/Robert Tangherlini R: George Gaskell G: Debby Manning C: James Elmore L: Keith Borgschatz/George Gaskell/Kim Tangherlini U: Mark Totman/John Peterson/Jim Krouse CT: Karen Darvey/Rachel Leland	10:45am CC: Walter Williams CHOIR A: Sydney Cueva/Kristen Schroth R: Sandra Cueva G: Darla & Jeff Olson C: Peter Berg L: Peter Berg/Mary Stohlman/Kevin Peterson U: Stan & Cheryl Newton/Tom Gumpert CT:
<i>January</i> <i>18</i>	8:15am CC: Dan Tveit/Sean Whitaker CHOIR A: Lindsey Engel/Courtney Tveit R: Dave Douglass G: Joe & Carol Gambill C: Holly Elmore L: Joe & Carol Gambill/Susan White U: Dave Douglass/Kim & Tom Tveit CT: Dave Douglass/	10:45 am CC: Hillary Wagener KID'S CHOIR A: Spencer Wagener/Daniel Peterson R: Laurie Robbins G: Jacqui & John Vaskovich C: Peter Berg L: Mary Stohlman/Sherry Wagener/Velda Pagel U: Chris Hemerka/Dave Rudko/Riley White CT: Mike Allen/John Engel
<i>January</i> <i>25</i>	8:15am CC: Margo Gunderson A: Jordan Marthens/Rayna Leland R: Joan Haase G: George Gaskell C: James Elmore L: Barb & Jim Krouse/Mary Stohlman U: Bruce Atkinson/Chris Marthens/George Gaskell CT: Mike Timken/Cindy Hilburn	10:45 am CC: Julie Mortenson CHOIR A: Heather Lapham/Chaz Williams R: Debra Peterson G: Debbie Skjerven C: Donna Kiernan L: Dave Douglass/Stan & Cheryl Newton U: Walter Williams/Ed & Virginia Heeren CT: Velda Pagel/Mickey Allee



*Blessed be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
By his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3*



Celebrating

January Birthdays

Tahni Blume	1/2
Karen Funkhouser	1/2
Kristin Jenkins	1/2
Staci Nathanson	1/2
Susan Snyder	1/3
Jennifer Kelp	1/4
Lauren Rhoton	1/4
Lyndsey Haapala	1/5
Parker Lewis	1/5
James Reideler	1/5
Jennifer Crum	1/6
Joey Rabkin	1/6
Brad Engelbrecht	1/7
Ed Kutter	1/7
Shirley Peterson	1/7
Gisela Branch	1/9
Mike Olsker	1/9
Nancy Peterson	1/10
Ellen Tewell	1/10
Judy Trombley	1/10
John Odland	1/11
J.J. Stout-Harris	1/12
Stephanie Franich	1/13
Debby Manning	1/14
Velda Pagel	1/14
Charlie Skinner	1/14
Karen Britton	1/16
Annalee Gunderson	1/16
Danny Magazzu	1/16
Steven Krouse	1/21
Dale Funkhouser	1/22
Jake Marthens	1/22
James Krouse	1/24
Mike Riley	1/24
Sean Proctor	1/25
Karolina Jesilow	1/26
Virginia Heeren	1/27
Jeremy Weber	1/28
John Sullivan	1/30
Matthew Lundin	1/31

