

Community Lutheran Church
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COMMUNITY NEWS

January 2010

Pastor's Message

“Living Our Priorities”

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.”

Matthew 6:33

There is an old saying: “Denial is more than a river.” So often we hide behind denial. We hide behind denial when we do not want to accept responsibility for the choices we make. For example: At the beginning of each year resolutions are made. Perhaps one may be to eat less candy. But when candy is eaten there is always an excuse as to why one is not to blame. Denial is used in relationships when someone is caught doing or saying something that can be harmful or hurtful. Denial is used in business to steer the blame away from an error in judgment. And of course denial is used when we simply do not want to face the reality of our own choices and attitude. Denial seeps into all of our lives. So why talk about denial?

What seems to be a tradition in our country is to make promises to our self at the beginning of each year. These take the form of New Year's Resolutions. I stopped making resolutions years ago. They never seemed to work for me. I believe they don't work because at the heart of them we really do not have a desire to change. Or maybe we know in our head the change is good but in our heart it hasn't gotten to the point of being a priority. So we continue to live as usual, not owning our choice and remain in denial that we really do need to change.

We do that which is important to us. All we have to do is to look at those activities that demand our time and attention and we will see what is important to us. Denying it doesn't make it less true. So what is my point in all of this?

As Christians what is important to us? What is of value? Over the years I have come to understand that worship each week, having a desire to study God's Word, taking time to reflect and talk to God about important matters, these are what make up that which we call faith. So why don't we attend to them? Denial is why. We tell ourselves they are important but do other things. We deny that they are not really important and our schedule, our daily routine reflects this. After all we always do that which is important to us.

I want to set a challenge before you for 2010. I want you to try to find a way that you will attend to matters of faith. I want to challenge you that you begin to see these things as important, really important, important enough that your schedule reflects this truth. If it becomes that, then all the rest will fall into place. If faith matters, really matters, then we will adjust our schedules to accommodate it, after all, we all do those things which matter the most to us. There is no denying it.

As one who struggles with you,

Pastor Greg



Treasurer's Report

	November	YTD
Receipts—Offerings	\$ 32,416	\$321,308
Receipts—Preschool Tuition	63,370	712,580
Receipts—Building Fund	0	0
Receipts—Other	658	24,923
Receipts—Contingency Reserve Used	<u>0</u>	<u>7,200</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 96,444	\$ 1,066,011
Total Expenditures	<u>(95,199)</u>	<u>(1,116,382)</u>
Excess Receipts over Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,245</u>	<u>\$ (50,371)</u>

Date	Attendance	Offerings
Nov 1	234	\$ 7,108
Nov 8	238	\$ 6,191
Nov 15	207	\$ 3,697
Nov 22	204	\$ 5,432
Nov 29	235	\$ 6,818
Thanksgiving EFT Offer.	99	\$ 618
		<u>\$ 3,715</u>
Total	1,217	\$32,416

Cash Balance Available for Current Expenses After reserves		<u>\$ (35,827)</u>
Contingency Reserve Balance		<u>\$ 19,124</u>

Offering income was \$4,034 less than November's budgeted \$36,450.

Preschool income was \$10,830 less than November's budgeted \$74,200.
Anticipated monthly preschool income is now \$65,000 per month.

Expenses were \$5,785 less than budgeted for November. All categories were within \$1,000 of budget or less than budgeted.

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



Church Council Board

A Message from our New Council President:

Happy New Year 2010!! A New Year means many things: resolutions, diets, exercising, cleaning out the old, etc. I look forward to 2010 as the new President of the Church Council. We as a congregation have many choices in our lives, especially living here in Southern California. My husband and I have raised two young adults here, spending many hours at soccer fields, softball fields, baseball fields, Scout campouts, etc. But, I hope the most important time we've spent with our kids is here at church. Teaching Sunday School for their classes led me to meet many wonderful members and their children. Being involved with their Confirmation Classes led me to meet more people here at CLC. As they went to Sunday School, I attended the adult Bible Study and met more interesting people that I enjoyed getting to know.

My challenge this year is, and I challenge each of you to try the same, involve yourself in one new activity at CLC. Come to Book Club, the Men's Group, a WOW activity, teach Sunday School, help with Altar Guild, sing in a choir, greet guests as they enter the church. Your choice. You'll be amazed at the enjoyment you will find!!

Happy New Year!!!

Jane Wielenga

Youth & Family Board



Back from Christmas Break!

Just a quick reminder- regular confirmation class and high school youth group begins again on Wednesday, January 6th! Hope you had a wonderful holiday- looking forward to getting back in the swing of things! Happy New Year!

Service Saturday

In light of the recent fire at Southwest Community Center in Santa Ana, an organization who we've worked closely with in the past, our service Saturday for January will revolve around helping them get back in working order. Please stay tuned for more details from Alison as soon as we receive word! Our date is tentatively set for January 16th!



The January book is A Dog Named Christmas by Greg Kincaid. The meeting will be on January 11 at 7PM at church. Upcoming titles for 2010:

Feb 8th The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Mar 8th The Faith book by Mitch Albon,

April 12th The Bible Salesman by Clyde Edgerton

May 10th The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter & Sweet by Jamie Ford

June 14th The Soloist by Steve Lopez,



Young@♥

Please meet at church at 6:00 PM on January 3rd for some Bingo and snacks. R.S.V.P. to your hosts for the evening, Ed & Virginia Heeren. Bring a finger food, appetizer or snack to share!

*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*



Fair Trade Coffee

Fair trade coffee is served at CLC, enjoy a cup on Sunday. It will be on sale on Sunday, January 3.

Thrivent Builds 2,000th Home Milestone

A new home for a Abdikalik Abdulahi and his wife, Suaada Abdiaziz of Somalia, built by a host of volunteers, was dedicated Dec. 4 in Minneapolis -- the 2,000th home built through an alliance of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International.

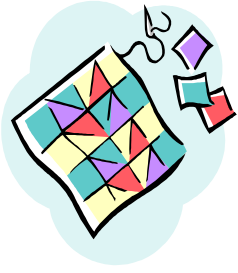


"Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity" is a four-year, \$125 million alliance of the two organizations. Their work has resulted in construction of homes in 46 states and the District of Columbia.

That alliance will conclude this year, but a new \$15 million program, "Thrivent Builds Homes," will focus on volunteers from Lutheran congregations and Thrivent members. Its goal is to build 181 homes in 37 states in 2010.

Homes are sold to selected families at no profit. The buyers pay their own mortgages.

Thrivent of Orange County will build 2 homes in 2010, one in San Juan Capistrano and one in Fullerton. Stay tuned for details on building dates. Contact Rich Robbins or Rod Anderson for more information.



Quilting

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief refugees will be starting 2010 on January 25 at 6pm. No skills are necessary We will teach you how to help! See **YOU there!**

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2009 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.

Prayer chain

Trust in Jesus! What great prayer for 2010. Not always an easy prayer in the face of adversity or illness, but a great prayer none the less. If you want to help other trust during adversities, join the prayer chain of CLC. Email Mary Stohlman at mstohlmn@yahoo.com



Stephen Ministry

Are You Experiencing a "Winter" in Your Life?

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience "winters" in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support.

If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, support, and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with Mary Stohlman (858-0307) or Pat Elliot (888-1756). Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

Women of the Word

Women of CLC celebrate the New Year with the Women of the Word on Thursday, January 28th at 6:30 PM. The topic will be New Year's Resolutions from a Christian Perspective.



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 Julie Mortenson.

Kriskening

Kriskening is about sharing God's Word, love and kindness with other people. Families sign up in January to "Krisken" their secret family throughout the month of February. This is done through cards, small gifts, flowers, baked goods and other creative ideas. The fun concludes with the unveiling of secret families at a potluck held here at church on Sunday, February 28th at 5PM. Look for more information and a signup table between services January 17th, 24, & 31st.



Prayer Shawl Ministry and A New Bible Study



Like to knit? Want to learn how? Crochet? Help others? In January a new ministry for making prayer shawls will join the quilters on the 4th Monday of each month from 6 to 8pm. During this time we can make shawls for people suffering during times of illness or other struggles and pray for those who we may not know will receive these shawls. For more information see Sue Snyder. Beginners, learner, experts are all welcome!

New Bible Study on Prayerstay tuned for details on all of these events!



Saddleback Children's Center Preschool News

A recycling program starts the month of January. There is a large container in the back of the church parking lot and once it is filled it is worth \$1,000.00. We are running this program to help the children understand the importance of recycling and to raise funds for the school to make improvements to the play yards and classrooms.

Starting January, fall registration will begin for the upcoming 2010/2011 school year. Church members are welcome to enroll at this time. For more details please see the preschool's website at www.saddlebackchildrenscenter.org.

The whole preschool staff would like to thank everybody involved who provided the lunch and posters to our staff. We greatly appreciate it!!!!

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.



Celebrating
January
Birthdays

Tahni Blume	1/2
Karen Funkhouser	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
Virginia Heeren	1/27
Jeremy Weber	1/28
John Sullivan	1/30
Matthew Lundin	1/31

