

**Community Lutheran Church**  
30322 Via Con Dios • Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
(949) 858-0307 • FAX (949) 858-5445  
web site-www.clcrsm.org

# COMMUNITY NEWS

January 2012

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**Pastor's Message**     *"O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things."*  
*Psalm 98:1*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Over the last month I imagine that greeting has been shared more times than we can count.

It is my hope and prayer that the Merry of Christmas will contribute to the Happy of your New Year. A priceless gift was given to each of us at Christmas. Assuming we accepted ownership of the gift that we were given, 2012 looks to be magnificent!

The birth of Christ signifies a radical change in the relationship between God and creation. In the infant Jesus, God becomes one of us. God literally enters into human history. No longer is divine wisdom delivered through human prophets, but personally by God, who comes and lives among us.

Jesus, Immanuel, God with us, is here to bring you home to the Heart of God. He is here to awaken within you the truth of your identity. Jesus life, death and resurrection were all about you. Jesus is truly the greatest gift you have ever been given. During his life, Jesus taught you everything you need to know in order to be the person you were created to be. Utilizing your God given gifts, you are to cherish and develop those gifts for the good of all. When you take ownership of the gift God has given to you in Jesus, you essentially reclaim your true identity and you begin to see the world through the eyes of Jesus, and your role within it becomes clear. If you claim Jesus as the Lord of your life, then you will reflect God's love, mercy, grace and peace in your daily life. Living as a disciple of Jesus the gifts of love, mercy, grace and peace that you give, will also be the gifts you receive.

What is true for us as individuals is also true for us as the body of Christ, "the Church". Community Lutheran Church is in a time of transition as together you take the necessary steps that will lead to the calling of a new pastor. During this transition period God is present and the vibrant, faithful ministry of Community Lutheran continues.

Through the years the ministry of Community Lutheran has blessed many lives. You continue to reflect the love and light of Christ today and with God's abiding presence you will continue to do so far into the future. Your ongoing commitment to be present and involved is what defines this ministry. I have personally experienced your commitment to reflect Jesus love, mercy, grace and peace in your personal lives and as Community Lutheran. It is my prayer that you will continue to do so through the transition and into the new unfolding chapter of ministry in this magnificent family of faith.

May the love and light of Jesus empower you throughout the New Year.

Blessed to be with you,

Pastor Margaret

## NOVEMBER 2011

	YTD <u>BUDGET</u>	YTD <u>ACTUAL</u>
Receipts—Offerings	\$350,000	\$302,428
Net Receipts—Preschool	195,152	219,593
Receipts—Building Fund	0	300
Receipts—Other	3,180	7,697
Receipts-Dedicated Funds Used	<u>0</u>	<u>11,631</u>
Total Receipts	\$548,332	\$ 541,649
Total Expenditures (Non-Preschool)	(556,491)	( 537,556)
Excess Receipts over Expenditures	( <u>\$ 8,159</u> )	<u>\$ 4,093</u>

Date	Attendance	Offerings
Nov 6	230	\$ 7,220
Nov 13	203	\$ 3,802
Nov 20	211	\$ 5,141
Nov 27	203	\$ 3,795
EFT Offer.		\$ 2,236
<b>Total</b>	896	\$22,194

**Offering income** is \$47,572 less than budgeted year-to-date and was \$7,264 less than budgeted in November alone. That is 24% below budget for November.

**Preschool net income** is \$5,033 more than budgeted year-to-date.

**Non-Preschool Expenses** are \$18,935 less than budgeted, year-to-date.

**Prior Year Comparison:** Offering income for 2011 is 10% less than 2010's and Preschool net income is 1% more in 2011 versus 2010. Our budget provides for a 5% increase in offerings during 2011.

**Accounts Payable:** As of 10/31/11, we owe \$26,201 (\$20,000 to the preschool advance tuitions account and \$6,201 to various vendors). This is an increase of \$6,201 from October.

Detailed information is available upon request from Tracy Cantin (tcantin@aol.com).

**Schwab Account:** The church now has a Schwab brokerage account. This way members can donate shares of stock as an alternative to cash offerings. Not only can you help the church, you can avoid paying capital gains tax on appreciated stocks. For more information, please contact Tracy Cantin.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2011 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.



## "ON THE ROAD TO N'AWLINS"

## Youth Committee Board

In the New Year we will be preparing for our travels to New Orleans, fondly called "N'awlins" by the locals. As part of our preparation we will be meeting monthly to ready our minds and spirits for the event. Hitchhikers are welcome, even if you are not planning on making the trip, come join us as we prepare. Our first meeting will be on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30-8:00. A pizza dinner will be provided. We will be planning events for the next few months. We will feed both the body and the soul.

Happy New Year.

Pat Weber  
Youth and Family Board

## COUNCIL REPORT

The new council officers for 2012 are: President Jane Wielenga  
Vice President Bruce Atkinson  
Secretary Julie Draper

Christy Riley elected in November has resigned and been asked to chair the Transition Team to prepare for the calling of a new pastor. The council will be appointing other members in January. The Council position for Parish Life is still vacant. Volunteers are needed. Notes are available on past events from the past Parish Life person, Barb Krouse. Please talk to Jane or any Council member if you would help in this position.



Book club will meet on January 9<sup>th</sup> in the church office at 7:00 PM. The January 2012 book is The Last Time I Saw You by Elizabeth Berg. Join us for a lively discussion!



## Fair Trade Coffee

Fair Trade coffee will be for sale Sunday January 8, between services. LWR coffee is \$8.00 per package either 12 oz or 1 pound packages. There are flavored, decaf and regular coffees with various roasts available. And new product is organic Chai Tea! Get yours soon!

## Prayer Chain

If you want to join in the prayer chain support of members and family and friends of the congregation in their times of concern and over-filled lives, please email Mary Stohlmán at [mstohlmn@yahoo.com](mailto:mstohlmn@yahoo.com).



## Young @♥

In January, we will meet at 4:00 PM on Sunday January 8th at the church. Details in the mail soon!



## 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 26th at 5:00 PM. Look for more information and a signup table between services January 15th, 22nd, & 29th.



## *Quilting For LWR and Prayer Shawl Ministry*

Quilting and Prayer Shawl ministry will meet on Monday January 23rd at 6:00 PM. Come join us to tie knots and chat with us, helping refugees around the world in need of a simple cover.

## *News from Habitat for Humanity*

Did you know, 20 years ago, Habitat built 48 homes in Rancho Santa Margarita? Now on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 15 of the original homeowners have written their last mortgage payment check! Congratulations to these homeowners! And on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, new Habitat homes were completed in Huntington Beach!





### *Women's Bible Study*

This study will meet on Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00 PM at Pat Elliot's home.

LMDG (Lutheran Magazine Discussion Group) meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 11:00 AM. This friendly group enjoys a good discussion of the Bible Study and other articles from the current edition of the Lutheran magazine. For more info see Karen Newby.



*From the Staff*

Thank you for the generous Christmas gifts you provided this year! Your gifts give us significant evidence of your care for us and CLC. Blessings to each of you in 2012.

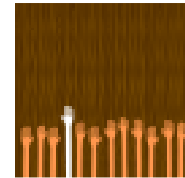
Pastor Margaret, Mary Stohlman, Julie Mortenson, Linda Bullock, Becky Prukner and Grant Rohr.



## Lutheran Saddleback Children's Center Preschool News

Starting January, fall registration will begin for the upcoming 2012/2013 school year. Church members are welcome to enroll at this time. For more details please see the preschool's website at [www.saddlebackchildrenscenter.org](http://www.saddlebackchildrenscenter.org).

### *Caught serving in December*



The Advent Angels who decorated the church for Christmas season: Barb and Jim Krouse, Mike and Lynn Bisnar, Paula and Mike Timken, Keith and Laura Borgschatz and Bill Blume.

Linda Bullock and Rod Anderson and Joe Pospichal for delivering the Adopt an Angel gifts and food to the Southwest Community Center.

The Timken, the Leland and Peck-Cohn families for helping to wrap the gifts at the Southwest Community Center Christmas Party.

The Men's group for planning, preparing and serving a delightful Christmas pancake breakfast.

Doris and Joe Pospichal, Mary Ann Ahola, Margaret Wood, Pat and Jim Petring, Virginia Peterson and Pat Mulhaupt for helping prepare the sanctuary for Christmas worship by arranging the poinsettias, polishing the brass and rearranging the chairs, preparing the candles, etc.

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

# Celebrating January Birthdays

Tony Brown	1/1
Tahni Blume	1/2
Karen Funkhouser	1/2
Staci Nathanson	1/2
Susan Snyder	1/3
Jennifer Kelp	1/4
Loren Rhoton	1/4
Lyndsey Haapala	1/5
Parker Lewis	1/5
James Reideler	1/5
Noah Donaldson	1/6
Brad Engelbrecht	1/7
Gisela Branch	1/9
Mike Olsker	1/9
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
Karen Johnston	1/16
Danny Magazzu	1/16
Kate Donaldson	1/19
Steven Krouse	1/21
Dale Funkhouser	1/22
Jake Marthens	1/22
James Krouse	1/24
Mike Riley	1/24
Christy Ziemer	1/24
Rob Chase	1/26
Cortney Chase	1/27
Virginia Heeren	1/27
Jeremy Weber	1/28
John Sullivan	1/30
Matthew Lundin	1/31

