

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

March 2010

Pastor's Message "Godly People"

"Preserve my life, for I am godly; save thy servant who trusts in thee."

Psalm 86:2

How would you define being a godly person? Many define godliness with actions, such as going to church, watching one's language, perhaps a prayerful attitude. Others define it as acting with integrity, seeking God's will, or demonstrating a meek and reverent attitude. Although these are good definitions of what being godly means, they do not define the word according to Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament.

The word godly literally means, "I am cursed." In this instance the writer of the psalm sees himself as one who is in need of God's grace and help. He asks to be preserved from his enemies. He recognizes that he is poor and needy. And the request he makes to God is to be gracious and to hear his cry for help. These are the attributes of being godly – being helpless to alter the situation without God's intervention.

Due to his honest evaluation of his circumstance he seeks God and recognizes the grace and mercy God has displayed. His request is to ask for the same consideration. In his honest awareness of himself he trusts in God's mercy and compassion. It is that compassion that drives him to God in the first place.

From his awareness of his own station in life, knowing he is a godly man (cursed from being human/sinful), his act of faith causes him to reach to God seeking guidance, strength, and courage. God hears his cry for help and responds not according to the writer's nature but according to God's nature, one that is merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

There is much to be learned here. Through psalm 86 God reminds us that our hope resides in only God, that we can have complete confidence that God hears our cries and knows our needs, and that God acts towards us as God has acted towards the writer and Israel – gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. AMEN

Pastor Greg



Treasurer's Report

	January 2010	YTD
Receipts—Offerings	\$ 28,523	\$ 28,523
Receipts—Preschool Tuition	67,645	67,645
Receipts—Building Fund	0	0
Receipts—Other	1,662	1,662
Receipts--Dedicated Funds Used	0	0
Receipts-Contingency Reserve Used	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 97,830	\$ 97,830
Total Expenditures	(94,187)	(94,187)
Excess Receipts over Expenditures	<u>\$ 3,643</u>	<u>\$ 3,643</u>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
Jan 3	154	\$ 4,050.00
Jan 10	199	\$ 6,675.00
Jan 17	227	\$ 4,215.00
Jan 24	233	\$ 5,857.00
Jan 31	195	\$ 4,520.00
EFT Offer.		\$ 3,205.00
Total	1,008	\$28,523.00

Cash Balance Available for Current Expenses After reserves		<u>\$ (40,657)</u>
Contingency Reserve Balance		<u>\$ 19,124</u>

Offering income was \$2,877 less than January's budgeted \$31,400.

Preschool income was \$2,395 more than January's budgeted \$65,000.

Expenses were \$858 less than budgeted for January. 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

SWOT Report to be presented on March 21st between Church services.

On 10/15/09 CLC members were invited to a facilitated assessment meeting. We had 34 members of our congregation attend. Our objective was to get a snapshot of where CLC stands in four focus areas: Property, Personnel, Programs and Outreach. The Forward Planning Committee has prepared an analysis of data collected and would like to share the data with the entire congregation. Please join us on March 21st between Church services to see the recommendations and action items that were presented to the Church Council. Your ideas and concerns are of the utmost importance to the Forward Planning Committee.

Thank you,

Mike Bisnar
Forward Planning

Executive Council 2010

<u>Council President</u> –Jane Wielenga	949-858-8129	jwielenga@cox.net
<u>Vice President</u> -Barb Krouse	949-459-6862	barbkrouse@cox.net
<u>Treasurer</u> -Tracy Cantin	949-589-4211	tcantin@aol.com
<u>Secretary</u> - Dave Skinner	949-233-1037 (cell)	dave@socalskinner.com

Council Chairs

<u>Board of Forward Planning</u> – Mike Bisnar	714-305-4168	mbisnar@cox.net
<u>Board of Worship & Music</u> – Kevin Peterson	949-858-8356	kp.pleinair@gmail.com
<u>Board of Parish Education</u> – Ashley Notthoff	949-459-7988	kans@cox.net
<u>Board of Youth & Family</u> - Dave Skinner	949-233-1037 (cell)	dave@socalskinner.com
<u>Board of Stewardship & Finance</u> –Pat Elliot	949-888-1756	patelliott@cox.net
<u>Board of Outreach</u> – Bruce Atkinson	949-581-5304	bruce@atkinson.net
<u>Board of Parish Life</u> – Barb Krouse	949-459-6862	barbkrouse@cox.net
<u>Board of Property Management</u> – Mark Totman	949-459-0442	mdtotman@cox.net

Youth & Family Board



Youth Schedule through Lent

As a reminder, Confirmation class does not meet for class throughout Lent; however, they are required to remain a part of Lenten worship as a part of their study. Also, we're always looking to them for their help setting up/ tearing down from Soup Suppers (volunteer hour opportunity, of course).

High school youth group will still meet together following the worship service until 9:00pm as usual.

30-Hour Famine Service Lock-in!

Beginning March 26th and lasting into the afternoon of the 27th, we'll be participating in the 30-Hour Famine... a nationwide observance of the problem of hunger and what we can do to stop hunger across the globe! The event is open to all members of CLC, with the all-nighter part being limited to 6th-12th grade. We'll play games, participate in service and learn a few things and put our heads together to find ways to fight hunger! Please visit www.30hourfamine.org to learn more about this wonderful ministry!

Starr Ranch Workday & Service Saturday

We're signed up for a fun work day at Starr Ranch, located within Dove Canyon. On March 27th we'll meet at Starr Ranch at 9:00am and help by pulling weeds from various areas of their reserve. Starr Ranch is a part of the Disney "Give-A-Day, Get-A-Day" program, meaning the service you perform there can be used to earn a free ticket to Disneyland! We will be finished at Starr Ranch at noon.

Elementary School Ice Skating Day!

As a fellowship event for the elementary age children of CLC, we will be having an ice skating day on Sunday, March 7th from 12:30pm-3:00pm at the Aliso Vejo Ice Palace! Cost is \$15 (\$12 if you have your own skates). We will be meeting at the rink, so please arrange for your own rides. Adult chaperones needed! Contact Alison for more information!

Wednesday Lenten Worship Services 2010
7:00 PM

“HANDS OF LENT”

March 3 – “Hurting Hands”

March 10 – “Nervous Hands”

March 17 – “Angry Hands”

March 24 – “Estranged Hands”

April 1 – “Serving Hands” Maundy Thursday

April 2- “Pierced Hands” Good Friday



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOUP SUPPERS

Wednesday night soup suppers continue through March 24th. Please join us at 6:00 PM for some satisfying soup and other treats before the Lenten Worship Service.

LENTEN PROJECTS 2010

Lenten Projects are a way for US to give some of ourselves, time, talent and money as, Christ gave His Life for US on Good Friday.

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

John 15:11-13

Haiti Earthquake Relief - Collection of loose change in water bottles for victims of the Haiti earthquake through Lutheran World Relief. There is more info about this project on the back of this page.

Introduction to 30 Hour Famine for World Vision - for High School and Jr. High students and others who want to participate. Friday February 26 at 6:00 PM. Sign-up with Alison.

Prayer Shawl Ministry and Quilting Work Day - Sunday February 28 at 12 noon. Come and help or learn more about these projects. Want to learn how? We will teach you how, even men can help!



Lenten Projects cont'd

Brownie sale for the LRW Haiti Earthquake victims on Sunday March 7 after both services. Plan to take some home for your family and know you are helping another family live a healthier life.

Workday at Southwest Community Center in Santa Ana on Saturday March 13. Meet at Church at 8AM and wear work clothes, closed toe shoes and bring gloves and shovels. Stay tuned for details.

Food for the Homeless Food will be distributed in Orange County by Lutheran Social Services. Donations of food items packaged in individual serving sizes, flip top cans, one serving size cans, bottles, containers including: tuna pouches or cans, Vienna sausages, cheese and crackers, top ramen type soups, soup in hand, juice, packs of cookies and snacks, cups of apple sauce or other fruit, small jars of peanut butter and jelly, cereal and oatmeal in single serving boxes or envelopes, granola bars, chips, wrapped candy, etc. Regular and large sized food items are needed too! Donations needed by March 28.

Gifts for Marines in Afghanistan Small items(MUST fit in flat rate box) can be put in the box in the narthex. Suggestions: tuna packs, crackers, cookies, candy bars, beef jerky, small jars of peanut butter, other snacks powdered Gatorade, playing cards, other small games, car/sports magazines, small bottles of hand sanitizer, baby wipes, lotions, Chap Stick, Kleenex, other personal care items, paper, pencils, envelopes, pens and AA batteries. Boxes will be packed on Sunday March 21 at 12 noon.

**Thrivent[®]
Builds**

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Did you know CLC is a part of the Lutheran Partnership for Habitat for Humanity and we will be helping build the homes in Fullerton and in San Juan Capistrano for disabled Vets and others. We will work as a group on Saturday April 17 in San Juan Capistrano. We need 10 firm commitments to be there! And we will work again on June 20 in Fullerton. Building is active Wednesday through Saturday and if you want to work on another date just contact HfH at the website. And there are LOTS of non-construction volunteer jobs that need to be done too, check the website for more info.

Want details on building dates, or sign up in the narthex. Contact Rich Robbins or Rod Anderson for more information. Or check the website at www.habitatoc.org for information. There is always a need for weekday builders too. Habitat is actively looking for 18 families for the remaining homes. If you know of someone that might qualify, please have them contact Habitat for Humanity at 714-434-6200.

Quilting, Knitting and Crocheting!



Quilting for Lutheran World Relief and the New Prayer Shawl Ministry will join hands in these caring ministry projects.. Join us to knit/ crochet or tie quilts on Monday, March 22 at 6pm. No skills are necessary we will teach you how to help! So we will have lots of caring ministry going on for people in need of special care! Also see the quilting date for the Lenten projects!! See YOU there!

WOW!

Women of the Word

All CLC women and their friends please join us for the Mystery Meeting on March 26th at 6:30 PM. See you there!



Stephen Ministry  Love One Another As I Have Loved You...

In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job--it's something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it.

If you--or someone you know--are going through a difficult time contact one of our Stephen Leaders about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide you with focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care and to help you experience the healing power of Christ's love in your life. Contact Mary Stohlman (858-0307) or Pat Elliot (888-1756).

Young@♥ will meet on Sunday March 14 at 5pm. Note the date change...don't want you to miss the Oscars!!! Jim McGregor will be our host. Details in the mail!



Prayer chain



Softly and gently God announces his presence in your life. Shimmering hues of radiance come into your consciousness, seeking entrance. the weaker you are the more gently God approaches. Hope is like a golden cord connecting you to heaven. And your hope in God will protect you from depression and self-pity. Cling to the golden cord of hope and god's love for you. Join the prayer chain at CLC. Email Mary Stohlman at mstohlmn@yahoo.com.

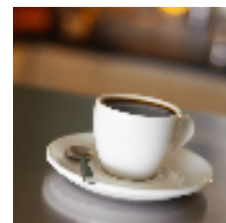


The March book is The Faith book by Mitch Albom. The meeting will be on March 8th at 7PM at church. Upcoming titles for 2010:

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

Fair Trade Coffee

The LWR Coffee Project ensures that more of the money you spend on coffee reaches the farmers who actually grow it. Fair Trade coffee is a simple solution that means the difference—quite literally—between surviving and not surviving for small-scale coffee farmers.



Micah 6:8 calls us, as Christians, to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. The LWR Coffee Project helps Lutherans answer that call by improving the lives of small-scale farmers around the world.

Proverbs 13:23 says, "A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away." Lutherans enjoy coffee as a regular part of their fellowship,

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Like to knit? Want to learn how? Crochet? Help others? In January a new ministry started, but there is room for **YOU!** On the 4th Monday of each month from 6 to 8pm crocheters and knitters will join the quilters in making prayer shawls for those

involved in life changing situations. 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, and will receive these shawls. For more information see Sue Snyder. Beginners, learner, experts are all welcome! See you March 22 at 6pm.

Worship Volunteers NEEDED!

Many hands make light work! Will you help once a month on a Sunday morning?

Ministry opportunities are available for Children's Church, Communion Assistants, Ushers and Cantors. For details contact Julie Mortenson in the church office.



High Seas Adventures Vacation Bible School



Dates: August 16th -20th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.
Stay tuned for more information.



Preschool News

Fall registration is under way for the upcoming 2010/2011 school year. For more details please visit our website at www.saddlebackchildrenscenter.org or call Sandy Starks at 949 858-0646 for a tour or information.

After 2 years and many hours of extra work, our teachers hard work paid off and we passed the accreditation process for the NAEYC!

Let Prayer Change Your Life
(Not as scary as it sounds!)

If you are looking to deepen your walk with Christ or just want to figure out how to fit more prayer time in your day join us for a new Bible study. The study starts on Sunday, March 7th at 9:30 AM in the classroom next to the kitchen. Books for the study are \$15.00 each and available at the first meeting.



Celebrating March Birthdays



Brian Schroth	3/1	Keri Bullock	3/17
Jane Wielenga	3/3	Sally O'Henley	3/17
Jason Bender	3/4	Isabelle Good	3/18
Debra Peterson	3/4	Valerie Bender	3/19
Olivia Sullivan	3/4	Gay Chessell	3/19
Kari Uthus	3/4	Christina Chun	3/19
Sarah Barker	3/5	Sue Wasik	3/19
Olivia Ramirez	3/5	Julie Melberg	3/20
Henry Melberg	3/6	Jacqui Vaskovich	3/20
Amanda Pappalardo	3/6	Patricia Hallgren	3/23
Sara Good	3/7	Kim Lewis	3/23
Braden Olson	3/7	Kimberly Britton	3/24
Jacob Good	3/8	Holly Anderson	3/25
Joan Haase	3/8	Heather Lapham	3/25
Doris Pospichal	3/8	James Wright	3/25
Jordan Marthens	3/9	Spencer Wagener	3/26
Barbara Bender	3/10	Rod Anderson	3/27
Lynn Bisnar	3/10	Chris Blackmore	3/27
Deirdre Peak	3/10	Alexander Kiernan	3/28
Connor Hilburn	3/11	Bryn Williams	3/28
Matthew Johnson	3/11	Rachel Chamberlin	3/29
Brett Good	3/13	Eric Douglass	3/29
Lisa Dunn	3/15	Kirsten Gaworski	3/30
Holly Elmore	3/15	Mary Stohlman	3/31
Christopher Olsker	3/15		
Garrett Olsker	3/15		
Ryan Olsker	3/15		