

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

October 2011

Pastor's Message

"FREE INDEED!"

John 8:31-36

31-33: "Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free?'"

Sometimes we equate being a Christian with having to live by certain standards: Always forgive; Always be cheerful; Always help one another; never promote personal wants; never seek personal needs over the needs of others; etc.

These acts, along with others, come to us as the "Christian thing to do". We hope that by doing them we will grow in faith. Perhaps to feel closer to God, maybe even to change our image of our self to be more positive, and possibly to experience some sense of peace.

Like Luther, we do things to help us feel better about ourselves with God. In the end what we find is that which we thought would be freeing feels oppressive. We are weighed down by expectation of "have to", supposed to and ought to". We experience firsthand what Luther understood as "being under the law". It destroys our spirit by weighing us down with all its rules and expectations!

34-35: "Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever."

When we are experiencing the law the question then rises: "Where is God in all of this?" The things we think should bring peace don't. That which we thought would draw us closer to God does not. The peace we seek remains hidden and we find only struggle, struggle between what we believe and what we experience. What we experience is guilt, unresolved conflict; and struggle within ourselves. We seek out help from counselors, from self-help books, and Oprah Winfrey. We discover first hand Jesus' words, "everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."

36: "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

As the Word fed Luther's soul, so too it feed ours! It gives life. It renews one's spirit. And it reveals that which is always been present under the law and in the struggle God's grace!

Hearing God's Word we hear once again that nothing separates us from God's love: Not the law; and not our struggle. God's Word makes known God's promise to remain in our lives forever!

As we trust that word faith comes alive. As we embrace that word faith is lived. And as we act on that word we act in faith. Our soul is fed! Our life is restored. This is not a onetime action but a continual process of discovery. God's Word comes and speaks to our lives. We discover the truth that passes all of our understanding. To use Jesus' words: "*we are free indeed*".



AUGUST 2011

YTD BUDGET YTD ACTUAL

Receipts—Offerings	\$257,000	\$225,353
Net Receipts—Preschool	134,268	158,547
Receipts—Building Fund	0	300
Receipts—Other	2,410	6,684
Receipts-Dedicated Funds Used	<u>0</u>	<u>5,327</u>
Total Receipts	\$393,678	\$396,211

Date	Attendance	Offerings
Aug. 7	193	\$ 4,864
Aug. 14	188	\$ 5,975
Aug. 21	187	\$ 5,891
Aug. 28	149	\$ 4,510
EFT Offer.		\$ 2,623
Total	953	\$ 23,863

Total Expenditures (Non-Preschool)	<u>(401,331)</u>	<u>(391,940)</u>
Excess Receipts over Expenditures	<u>(\$ 7,653)</u>	<u>\$ 4,271</u>

Offering income is \$31,647 less than budgeted year-to-date.

Preschool net income is \$24,279 more than budgeted year-to-date.

Expenses are \$9,391 less than budgeted, year-to-date.

Prior Year Comparison: Offering income for 2011 is 7% less than 2010's and Preschool net income is 6% more in 2011 versus 2010. Our budget provides for a 5% increase in offerings during 2011.

Accounts Payable: As of 8/31/11, we owe \$28,719 (\$20,000 to the preschool and \$8,719 to various vendors.

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

Schwab Account: The church now has a Schwab brokerage account. 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.



Church Council Board

Have you ever wondered how our beautiful church and school property are taken care of? Do you feel there are things that need improvement or could be updated around our campus? Are you good with tools and have a little spare time? If so, why not join our small group of guys that meet once a month to do minor fixes in and around the property. We usually meet the first Saturday of the month (unless it falls on a holiday weekend) for a few hours in the morning and enjoy learning from each others' God-given talents. If interested please contact me at [949-439-4431](tel:949-439-4431) or email me at mdt811@gmail.com. Thanks - looking forward to seeing you at church and please enjoy the great Fall weather!

Mark Totman, CLC Property chairperson

Food for Thought

The following illustration of God's faithfulness by Craig Wexler, Community Lutheran Church, Hill City, S.D., Master of Divinity, 2010, is from a daily devotional from Luther Seminary. As you consider your covenant with God to financially support Community Lutheran Church in the coming year, consider the amazing strength in God's promise to be our rock and provider of all we need. How will you respond to this gift?

A professor in college told me during a lecture on stewardship, "Show me your checkbook, I'll show you your God." The end of v.8 tells us who the "Rock" is in our world. God is the rock on which we stand and place our foundations. I watch people waste so much time, effort and resources trying to find their false gods—gods that offer no security and no freedom. Even though my wife and I have enough student loan debt to own a house, God truly gives "Daily Bread." It has been a blessing and a comfort living one day at a time. Bills get paid, food still appears on the table and my motorcycle still takes me to places that will forever show God's beauty. God is that rock in all our lives if we choose to trust and live our lives as such.

Isaiah 44:6-8 (NRSV)

6 Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

7 Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.

8 Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Please return your pledge card on Stewardship Sunday, October 16th.

Patricia Elliot

Stewardship Chair



Youth & Family Board

The Youth Group Fundraiser Golf Tournament is at October 2nd. The Youth will caddy for the participants. All youth from 7th grade through 12th grade are encouraged to participate in this event. Fundraiser proceeds will go toward sending the High School Youth to the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Met on Sunday, September 25th to discuss the 2012 Nation Youth Gathering in New Orleans. All High School Students received a letter with information on the National Youth Gathering. Next important National Youth Gathering deadline is October 2nd to pay \$150.00 deposit toward registration.

Future activities: K1 Speed, go cart racing, and Sky High, trampolines. One will be later this month and another will be in November. Dates to be announced.

High School Sunday School will be at 9:30 AM with Jane Wielenga and Bruce Atkinson.

Next meeting Youth and Family Board Meeting will be: October 12th at 5:30 in the conference room.

Bible class for 3rd graders and their parents



Bible class for 3rd graders and their parents will meet every Sunday in October 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th at noon. Parents will be asked to bring a light lunch one Sunday for the class. There will be sign-up sheet at the first class meeting. For details, please see Mary Stohlman. The class will receive their Bibles on Reformation Sunday October 30 at 10:30AM.

First Communion Classes

First Communion classes will held on November 1st (Tuesday after school at 3:30pm) and on November 5th (Saturday morning at 10:00 AM). First Communion is just one class but being held at two different times just in case one of the dates will not fit your schedule. Please contact the church office to sign up. The class is geared toward 5th grade level but any age may attend if the parents feel and believe their child is ready. The date of receiving first communion will be All Saints Sunday on November 6th. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Greg.



Adult Education

Attention all adults!

Matthew's account of the good news shows a Jesus who weaves profound new teachings from the threads of ordinary life experience. Matthew also weaves in bright strands of ancient prophecies fulfilled, his way of showing the unbroken line of God's faithfulness in action, from creation to resurrection and beyond.

Through the readings in this study, we glimpse Jesus' formidable intelligence and political skill as he nimbly engages his adversaries. We see Jesus as a forward-thinking leader who takes care to equip people for the mission that one day will be theirs: making disciples throughout the world.

This **7-session** Bible study encourages participants to explore the following themes:

Working It Out

Extreme Mercy

More Than Fair

Who Do You Think You Are?

The Son and the Stone

The Host with the Most

Show Me the Money

This class during the Sunday school hour at 9:30 AM between Worship Services.

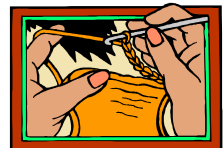


Lutheran World Relief Projects and In Gathering



We will quilt on Monday October 24th at 6:00 PM. Those working on Prayer Shawl Projects are always welcome to join us. All knitters and crocheters are invited to join us!

We will have about 40 completed quilts for LWR and 40 Layettes to be dedicated on Sunday October 2nd and then delivered to the LWR truck in mid-October to help refugees around the world. Quilts can be purchased for \$60.00 on that Sunday and the funds will be forwarded to LWR. There is a large hand pieced Christmas quilt that will be sold in a silent auction that day also, perhaps you have seen it on the patio!





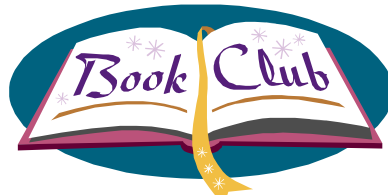
Annual Woman's Retreat 2011

Friday, October 7th through Sunday, October 9th in Palm Springs!

This event is right around the corner. The Women of CLC will be attending for fun and fellowship. Cost per person is \$100.00. For more information contact Lynn Bisnar (949) 589-2451 or email her at lbisnar@cox.net.

Children's Church

High school students do you enjoy working with children? We need some additional volunteers to help keep Children's Church going. Volunteers will 'teach' with the provided materials about once every month. If you would like to support this program, please see Julie Mortenson or email her at juliemortenson@clcrsm.org.



For the October 10th meeting we are reading Heaven is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back by Todd Burpo and Lynn Vincent. For November 14th, we are reading From the Heart: Seven Rules to Live By by Robin Roberts, and for December 12th, The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama.



Fair Trade Coffee

Lutheran World Relief has been supporting the Fair Trade Coffee Project for 15 Years! And each year Equal Exchange coffee Project donates 20 cents to LWR Small Farmer Fund for each pound of Coffee sold! Over the past 15 years Lutheran have bought 1250 TONS of coffee, tea and cocoa raising over \$550.00. Thank You for helping our neighbors improve their lives and business!

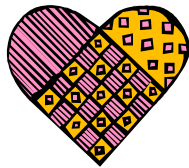
Prayer chain

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for Him. Psalm 37:7. Pressed by time demands, we work hard, play hard, sleep quickly and clutter our lives with things, projects and noise. But at what cost? Throbbing heads, racing hearts, tightening muscles and voices rise in anger are sometime the symptoms of living life to the extreme. When the people of Israel were fretting because of the loud voices of wickedness all around then, David counseled them saying “Be still before the lord, and wait patiently for him.” We need to include God in our silences. “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4 Helping others in their down time of illness or other trying times can help you too!



If you want to join in the prayer chain support of members and family and friends of the congregation in their times of concern, please email Mary Stohlman at mstohlmn@yahoo.com.

Young @



Will meet at church on Sunday, October 2nd
at 4:00 PM. Details in the mail!



Congratulations to the NEW COOK OFF WINNERS!

To Ashley Notthoff for the Best Chili and Ken and Nikki Notthoff for the best pie



Caught Serving!

Mark Totman and Ken Notthoff for the great new table carts!

The Parish life committee for hosting 2 great events recently the Chili Cook-off and Pie Contest and the Progressive dinner!
Thanks Barb, Laura, Cindy, Lynn and Paula!!!



Men's Group Golf Event & Oktoberfest and Golf Events

The 4th Annual CLC Golf Tournament & Youth Group Fundraiser will be on Sunday, October 2nd. We still need some caddies. Caddying is open to 7th graders through 12th graders.

Men's Group will meet on Thursday, "Oktober 27th" for its annual Oktoberfest. More information to follow regarding this event.



New Members Classes

New members classes will continue to meet on October 2nd and 9th at 12:00 noon. Please speak to Pastor Greg or Mary Stohlman if you are interested in participating. New members will be received on October 16th.



Cancelled - Economic and Investment Outlook Update

When we have a better understanding of the factors that affect financial markets and trends, you can make more informed investment decisions.

Join us for a free financial education event

Economic and Investment Outlook Update is an educational event that will provide you with an overview of:

- The "new normal" of muted economic growth.
- Investment options that may suit your needs.
- The story of Thrivent Financial and its history of prudent investing.

The one-hour event will be presented by Thrivent Financial representatives:

- Jessica Colon, CA Ins. ID No. 0H04805
- Dan Heidelberger, CA Ins. ID No. 0F64002

When: Tuesday, October 4th, 2011, from 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Where: Community Lutheran Church Sanctuary

Sign up for this free event today!

To register for this event, please contact Jessica Colon at 949-859-2143 or jessica.colon@thrivent.com by October 2, 2011

The Economic and Investment Outlook workshop is intended only to educate you about financial decisions. It is broad in scope and does not consider your individual personal financial situation, which is unique. The information and advice may not be appropriate in all cases. No products will be offered for sale.

Securities and investment advisory services are offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, 800-847-4836, a FINRA and SIPC member and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Thrivent Financial representatives are registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. They are also licensed insurance agents of Thrivent Financial.

For important disclosure information, please visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.
201100872



WALK WITH US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

Saturday October 22 ~ Mile Square Park Fountain Valley

The length and depth of our current recession has caused a dramatic increase in the number of homeless and the hungry. In fact the demand at LSS/CCC [Lutheran Social Services Community Care Centers - www.lssccc.org] has nearly doubled over the last two years. I invite you to help by walking with us on Saturday, October 22, 2011. We will meet for Registration at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Fountain Valley between 8 & 9 AM and then, following an opening prayer, we will proceed to Mile Square Park for what will be approximately a 4 mile walk around the park perimeter. Using our newly designed "Friends Asking Friends" WEB Site [www.lsswalk.org] is easy and will facilitate reaching and obtaining sponsors. "THRIVENT CHOICE \$'s" may also be designated for this cause - be sure to designate Lutheran Social Services and then Orange County. Also, Thrivent will be providing a complimentary BBQ after the walk, so come & join the fun. Directions to the church are available on the WEB site and also in a walk brochure in the church Narthex. Please join us in making a difference for those less fortunate.



Celebrating October 2011 Birthdays

John Gervais	10/1	Sarah Pickett	10/16
Venessa Chase	10/2	Megan Mulhaupt	10/17
Alan Snyder	10/2	Sarah Gumpert	10/18
David Pantoja	10/3	Britt Robertson	10/18
Paige Atkinson	10/4	Jack Ramirez	10/19
Kevin Kutter	10/4	Chad Shelley	10/20
Christina Douglass	10/5	Matt Engebretson	10/21
Dave Manock	10/5	Tami Engel	10/21
Kathleen Smith	10/6	Jerry Oswald	10/21
David Douglass	10/7	Holly Dennard	10/22
Mitchell Timken	10/7	Kevin Dunn	10/23
George Gaskell	10/9	Benjamin Gurnard	10/23
Eric Halverson	10/9	Donna Hauser	10/23
Daniel Hart	10/9	Alissa Ohlander	10/23
Bob Sundberg	10/9	Alison Edmunds	10/24
Laurie Gurnard	10/11	Samantha Notthoff	10/24
Tatum Robinson	10/11	Marcia Marthens	10/26
Alison Conrad	10/12	Linda Roberts	10/26
Brent Trombley	10/12	Michelle Sommerhauser	10/26
Kelsey Engel	10/13	Jennifer Yorty	10/26
Hillary Wagener	10/13	Gerri Anderson	10/28
Matthew Skjerven	10/14	Patricia Mulhaupt	10/28
Pastor Greg Uthus	10/14	Keith Shelley	10/28
Edward Heeren	10/15	Liam Blume	10/30
Becky Krupp	10/15	Jim Hilburn Jr.	10/31
Erika Jelovsek	10/16	Kara Peak	10/31

