

Community Lutheran Church
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COMMUNITY NEWS

November 2009

Pastor's Message

“GIVE THANKS”

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38

An English professor once told his class “A positive can mean a negative. A negative can mean a positive. And sometimes two negatives can mean a positive. But never can two positives be a negative.” After which a student said “Yeah, right.”

In one fell swoop a new insight was gained, a kind of revelation. Through the student's backhanded comment the professor saw that which was always present, always true but for many and various reasons was hid from his eyes.

As Thanksgiving is fast approaching I have been thinking about this thing called thanksgiving as it relates to God and God's presence in our lives. I am also sensitive to the fact that the past year has not been an easy one for any of us. It has been filled with economic challenges, relationship strains, and uncertainties that come with doubt, just to name a few. When life is filled with challenge and obstacles it can be difficult to recognize the presence of God and the power of God in life. What we forget, or perhaps what we cannot see is the work of God present in those things we find alien to God (i.e. war, death, disasters, famine, disease, etc.). The founder of the Lutheran faith, Martin Luther, described God's work in and through unexpected ways as God's alien work.

God's alien work is best described as God working through that which we would associate with evil, chaos, the world, but not of God. So God uses that which is part of our lives, that which is described as the consequences of our decisions, things that are hopeless, awful, evil to further God's will and accomplish that which God intends.

It is not as if God intended hurt and pain to be part of our lives but more that God uses that which is already present in our lives and accomplished his will through it. It's like when you have experienced a difficult time and when it ended you learned new things, grew as person, perhaps even benefited by it. That could be characterized as God's alien work. And when it is all over you then recognize how God had been part of your life.

What this means is, in the face of adversity, and not minimizing the significance of the pain or making light of the challenges, I can be thankful. I am thankful for the presence of God in all things. I am thankful that death nor life, things present nor things to come shall be able to separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus my Lord. I am thankful that what I have learned of God's presence in my past sustains me now in these moments of difficulty. I am not dismissing the pain nor am I romanticizing the hardship. I face them, wanting them to be gone but in the face of them know that God is present for me. I may still have to wait for that time when I shall know. But now I trust God is here, present, working in me, that which is well pleasing in his sight. For now, today, I give thanks! I pray that you can too.

AMEN

Pastor Greg



| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Receipts---Offerings | \$ 25,758 | \$264,310 |
| Receipts—Preschool Tuition | 79,964 | 586,782 |
| Receipts—Building Fund | 0 | 0 |
| Receipts—Other | 396 | 23,184 |
| Receipts-Contingency Reserve Used | <u>0</u> | <u>7,200</u> |
| Total Receipts | \$ 106,118 | \$ 881,476 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Total Expenditures | (99,941) | (925,718) |
| Excess Receipts over Expenditures | <u>\$ 6,177</u> | <u>\$ (44,242)</u> |

Cash Balance Available for Current Expenses
After reserves \$ (29,699)

Contingency Reserve Balance \$ 19,124

Offering income was \$3,402 less than September's budgeted \$29,160.

Preschool income was \$5,264 more than September's budgeted \$74,700.
Number includes \$12,835 in future tuitions.

Expenses were \$11,619 less than budgeted for September. All categories were within \$1,000 of budget or less than budgeted.

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

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Offerings</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Sept 6 | 188 | \$ 7,003 |
| Sept 13 | 239 | \$ 5,315 |
| Sept 20 | 227 | \$ 6,140 |
| Sept 27 | <u>206</u> | \$ 3,795 |
| EFT Offer. | | <u>\$ 3,505</u> |
| Total | 860 | \$25,758 |



Stewardship

Church Council Board

Sometimes in conversation one will hear or one will use a cliché or a wisdom saying, an “old adage.” They are often used to lend weight or credence to an opinion. In fact if you were to spend a day with a number of friends or even strangers you would likely hear at least one adage quoted during the course of that day. I’ve used them. And I’ll use one now: work hard and you will be rewarded. Now, I imagine, not every bit of hard work ends in a reward. But, in the context of a day’s hike in CLC’s backpacking program, I think it does.

Whether the day’s hike will be three miles, six miles or more, whether you are a camper, or a counselor or a guide, you will work hard. Physically, and sometimes mentally, you will be challenged. And at the end of the hard work is a pristine Sierra lake or stream. Fresh air. The sound of the wind blowing through the trees. Perhaps trout. There will be more stars than you can count. And the most important of all, time to reconnect with your fellow hikers and time to reflect on God’s Word and God’s participation in your life. Without the drone of a television or the flicker of a computer screen, the group sits around the campfire and talks about the highs and lows of the day. And with it, often talk of thankfulness for each other and for God. While smoke from the fire blurs our eyes, the Spirit fills our hearts. The hard work has been worth it.

And this is how it is for all of CLC. Worship and VBS and everything else won’t happen without hard work. Just like backpacking, the end result of the hard work is the proclamation of the Gospel and the unbelievable and profound gift of God’s love for us. The reward is living our life together as one, one body of Christ; reaping the gift of manna that God has given us.

Stewardship Cont'd

So this fall, work hard. Work hard in your life. Work hard here at CLC, give your time and your tithes. And please, when you receive your pledge card in the mail, fill it out and return it to the church office. Patience may be a virtue, but the best reward is what you give away!
Peace be with you,

Kevin Peterson

November Events

**Congregational Meetings to Discuss Budget Adjustments November 1st, 4th,
& 8th
Town Hall Meeting November 3rd**

**Annual meeting-Sunday November 15th between services.
It is necessary that all confirmed members be present.**



**November 22nd at 3:00 PM the annual Interfaith Concert
will be held at San Francisco Solano Church on Antonio Parkway.**

**November 26th at 7:15 PM –Thanksgiving Eve
Holden Evening Prayer Worship Service
Pizza Dinner begins at 6:15 PM**



**Hanging of the Greens Christmas Decorating of the Sanctuary November 28th
10:00 AM**



Decorate the Christmas tree – November 29th, during Sunday School, 9:30-10:30



Adopt an Angel. This is an annual program that CLC participates in. It will provide Christmas gifts for 150 children from Central Orange County. Please see Linda Roberts on the patio to select your name(s) on November 8th & 15th Gifts **must** be in the office by December 6th.



Community Food Collection

We will be collecting non perishable foods for the South West Community Center during November through December 6th. A shopping list will be in the bulletins and on the counter in the Narthex. These foods will be delivered in December with the “Adopt an Angel” gifts.

Food For Families:

Gift cards/certificates to grocery stores
Canned meats and Fish
Peanut butter and jelly
Macaroni and Cheese
Canned Fruits and Vegetables
Dried beans, Rice and Macaroni
Chili Beans and Pork and Beans
Dry Cereal and Oatmeal
Soup, Top Ramen

Food for the Homeless:

Food items in single serving portions
And in pop top cans Tuna,
Vienna sausages, Spam
Cup of Soup
Beanie Wienies
Juice
Crackers, Cookies
Fast food certificates

Youth & Family Board



November 15th CLC Men’s Golf- Youth Caddy Fundraiser

Just like last year, we've got the opportunity to head out onto the golf course and caddy for the Men's Group to earn some funds for our youth group! Make sure you sign up for this fun day and come along! Lunch is provided. Sign up with Alison or call/ email for more information!

Wednesday, November 25th: No Confirmation or H.S. Group

Reminder: These groups will not meet on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. We will, however, have a Thanksgiving Eve service that we encourage you and your family to come be part of.

Youth Disneyland Day, November 7th!

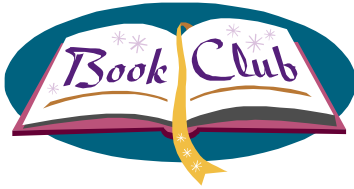
We're going to the Happiest Place on Earth! All Confirmation and High School students are invited to come along! Cost is \$55 and last day to RSVP is November 1st (sorry- no exceptions!). Chaperones will be needed, parents!

Service Saturday: November 21st, 10:30am-Noon

We'll be starting a new tradition at CLC Youth called ‘Service Saturdays’, where we will spend at least one Saturday each month in service to others. What better time to start than close to Thanksgiving, when we should be giving Thanks for the many blessings we have, while being a blessing to others?

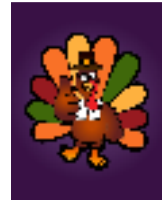
This month, we'll be working to feed the hungry. Please sign-up with Alison to participate and receive more information!





For Monday November 9th at 7:00 PM, we will read Zookeepers Wife by Diane Ackerman. Join us for a lively discussion! Our December book is On Strike For Christmas by Sheila Roberts

Calling all Turkeys



Young @ ♥ will meet Sunday November 1 at 5:00 PM at church. Details in the mail. John and Margaret Peterson will be our hosts.



Caught serving;;;;;

Thanks, to Cindy Mowery for her assistance in the church office!



Stephen Ministry

THIS MESSAGE IS FOR YOU!

What do Stephen Ministers do in a mud hole? Why are they even near that mud hole? The mud hole is an illustration of the times in life when you feel as if you have been sucked to the bottom of a mud hole and are unable to crawl out. Some people may think they are helping by feeling sorry for you and sharing your pain. They end up falling into the same mud hole. Some people may stand near the edge, looking in, saying "I am glad that is not my problem." A Stephen Minister will grab the strong roots of the tree of Christ and reach in a helping hand to pull you out. If you or someone you know needs that helping hand of a Christian friend, call Mary Stohlman or Pat Elliot.



First Communion will be received on November 1st, All Saints Day, by the following : Holly Anderson, Kyle Borgschatz, Betsy Cantin, Isabelle Good, Jason Leland, Sara Peak.



Women make Fair Trade happen all over the world, and through programs supported by Fair Trade premiums, including in Peru are gaining education, self esteem and new skills. In Peru's small-scale coffee farming communities, women typically start their days at 3 a.m. to cook breakfast, get children ready for school, and feed domestic animals. Throughout the day they wash clothes, cook lunch, and carry it to their husbands – which could be a two-hour walk away. During the harvest season women typically stay in the fields with their husbands to help harvest coffee. After a hard day's work they go back home, cook dinner, and make sure all aspects of the house are in order before being the last to go to bed.

The Women, Gender and Family program of Central Agrarian Coffee Cooperative, Ltd. (COCLA), a collective of coffee growers that supplies coffee beans to LWR Coffee Project partner Equal Exchange, aims to educate these women in an effort to increase their self esteem and elevate their social and economic status within their families and communities. Fair Trade premiums help to sustain the women's program, which offers trainings and activities that benefit women and their families.

Fair Trade Coffee is served at CLC and for sale on the first Sunday of each month on the patio.

Prayer Chain



James 5:13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.

"Hello," said Kay as she answered her telephone. "Hello, Kay. My brother is sick. Will you start the prayer chain for him?" I asked. "I certainly will," she responded, and I gave her a few more details. I felt some reassurance after leaving the request with her, knowing that others would be praying for Wynn, too. And so the story is repeated hundreds of times over every day as people pass on prayer requests via the phone, e-mail, or in person, and as congregations lift up their petitions for others in the prayers of the church. The Christian community is a praying community: we pray for those who suffer, for those who celebrate, for the sick, for any and all needs for people, both known and unknown. What a privilege! What a responsibility! What a gift!

Gracious God, thank you for the fellowship of believers who pray with and for each other. Thank you for listening and for answering, in Your way and in Your time; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Karla Kirkeby, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Wittenberg, WI.

Calling All Construction Volunteers

Habitat for Humanity



Is building in San Juan Capistrano!

Sign up on the patio to for CLC Habitat Building Date November 21. We need 10 builders at 7:30 till 3:00pm. See Rod Anderson for more details.

November Wellness Event
Women's Group (WOW)
Thursday, November 19th, 2009

Presenting our own Karen Mooney and Darla Olson!

Karen Mooney, R.N., will be speaking about women's health, including high blood sugar and hypertension leading to other illnesses.

Darla Olson, Chief Development Officer of Human Options, will present information about the Human Options organization.

Please join us at 6:30 PM for food and fellowship. Program will begin at 7:00 PM.

We will be donating diapers to Human Options (all sizes from infants to toddlers) so if interested please donate to this event.

If you would like to attend and need a babysitter, please contact Cymantha Atkinson at 581-5304.

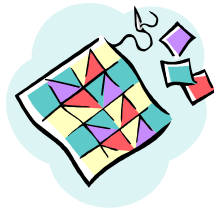
There will be a sign-up sheet on the patio between services or contact Daryl Kostka at 888-5091.



CONGRATULATIONS to these 3rd and 4th Graders who completed the Bible class and received their Bibles on Reformation Sunday October 25:

Ashley Vaskovich
Sara Peak
Natalie Pappalardo
Jason Leland
Danielle Simoneaux
Matthew Skjerven

Kayla Kjar
Brian Cantin
Brooks Timken
Eve Miller
Jillian Hadley
Kaitlyn Cohn



Kirk Betts, chair of the Lutheran World Relief board of directors, traveled to Niger in West Africa earlier this year to witness the distribution of LWR quilts and kits. The predominant colors are hues of brown - the parched soil, the mud brick buildings, even the trees coated in dust in Niger. To the right was the silhouette of a large shade tree, and from beneath it, a large cloud of dust - 15 feet high and obscuring the afternoon sun - began to move toward the clinic. As we came closer, it became clear that the cloud shrouded more than a hundred people, mostly crippled or deformed from polio, blinded by river blindness, or both. Their clothing was drab, and hung loosely on their thin bodies.

Inside the clinic were several bales of quilts and I was given the honor of removing the metal strapping and shipping wrap. Free of the wrapping, it was as if the quilts came to life - breathing the air, restoring their shape, preparing to offer new life to a recipient. As we opened bale after bale, I offered a prayer that these, too, would offer new life and express our love for others.

A younger man, barefoot and covered in dust and with legs deformed by polio, steered his hand-peddled tricycle toward me and reached out for the quilt. At the instant the bright red and white quilt was in his grasp, his otherwise empty expression moved to delight—a huge smile, a high five, a moment when someone connected with him. He, too, pulled the quilt to his chest, his smile evidence that at that moment, he felt the joy that comes from knowing that a stranger has offered themselves out of pure love. There is, indeed, a transforming moment when a quilt passes from our hands into another's hands. Quilts offer an eloquent message of Christ's love.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief works next on Monday November 26 6:00PM at church.



CLC Men's Group Golf Outing

Sunday, November 15th, 2009
At Tijeras Creek Golf Course
Tee times begin at 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
(Following the Annual Congregation Meeting)

Caddies provided by the Youth Group
Cost \$95.00

Deadline to register is November 13th, 2009
RSVP to Dave Skinner (949) 248-0260 or Dave@socalskinner.com

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.
Psalm 107:1*

Celebrating November Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Larry Yorty | 11/1 | Dave Newby | 11/15 |
| Sienna Franich | 11/2 | Nicholas Gurnard | 11/16 |
| Robert Simoneaux | 11/3 | Breanna Olson | 11/16 |
| Kristin Wielenga | 11/5 | Sandra Barker | 11/17 |
| Rich Robbins | 11/7 | Amy Riley | 11/17 |
| Ethan Hart | 11/8 | Kathryn Conrad | 11/18 |
| Skyler Peterson | 11/8 | Jonathan Stout | 11/22 |
| Renee Allen | 11/9 | Danielle Barry | 11/24 |
| Lindsey Beaman | 11/9 | Kyle Borgschatz | 11/24 |
| Sean Beaman | 11/9 | Scott Sloane | 11/24 |
| Tom Gaworski | 11/10 | Daniel Peterson | 11/25 |
| Andrew Brown | 11/12 | Brittany Barry | 11/28 |
| Debbie Reideler | 11/12 | Jean Wilkey | 11/30 |
| Richard Chun | 11/14 | | |

11/30
10/31

