

# Focus on Christ

*OUR MISSION: God calls us to live and share the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ with all people.*

## Christ Lutheran Church

A Christ-caring community

780 Ashbury Avenue

El Cerrito California  
(510) 524-1050

Rev. Lori Eickmann  
Interim Pastor

Marty Schaefer  
Organist

Melissa Vainio  
Bell Choir Director

George Fosselius  
Choir Director

Bill Goehring  
Office Manager



January 20, 2017

### A Word from Pastor Lori

Thanks to all who were there Sunday to hear my brief presentation on how we will proceed during the interim time. Most of you have heard the key steps: First you are asked to complete the call committee's CLC demographics survey. Next, I'll have a short (and very different) survey for you that will help focus the cottage meetings. The cottage meetings will help us take the pulse of CLC and determine what needs attention now. Finally, we'll hold a two-part congregation-wide event to envision together and create mission goals, which will be the basis for your Ministry Site Profile.



#### HERE ARE TWO WAYS YOU CAN HELP THIS PLAN GO SMOOTHLY:

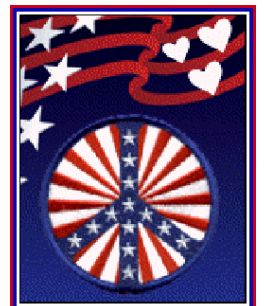
1) Participate! Turn in your surveys (and we promise that the call committee and I aren't planning any more of these!). Start inviting one another to form small groups for the cottage meetings, and plan what days/ times you'll generally be able to meet with me; we'll have sign ups in a few weeks. And in the cottage meetings and the eventual visioning gatherings, attend and be thoughtful and honest about your views of life at CLC. Every voice needs to be heard to accurately discern who you are as a congregation at this point in your long and faithful history.

2) Pray! Easy, right? Pray for your call committee and steering team, and for me as your interim pastor. Pray for clarity in what God is calling you to next, personally and as a congregation. Pray for the ongoing ministries of CLC. Pray for the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit during this transitional time. And don't forget to thank God for this beloved community of Christ Lutheran Church!

### A prayer for this inaugural weekend:

God of grace, in this world wounded by injustice and ignorance, give our religious and political leaders wisdom, courage, humility and vision. We pray especially for your guidance for our new president and this diverse nation. Dedicate each of us to the common good, that we may partner with leaders and the least of these in creating a world built on respect and compassion, reverence and responsibility, and goodwill toward all – a culture of peace that reflects your presence.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer!



# The weeks to come

Sun., Jan 22	10 AM 11:30 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Annual Meeting Mira Vista Service Al-Anon
Mon., Jan 23	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., Jan 24	3:30 PM 7 PM	Vale AA Meeting
Wed., Jan 25	5:30 PM 7 PM 8 PM	WOW Bell Choir Choir
Thur., Jan 26	6 PM 7 PM	UCC Meditation UCC Choir
Sat., Jan 28	6 PM	AA Mgt
Sun., Jan 29	10 AM 11 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Women's Bible Study Mira Vista Service Al-Anon
Mon., Jan 30	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., Jan 31	7 PM	AA Mgt.
Wed., Feb 1	6 PM 7 PM 8 PM	Joint Confirmation (PLTS) Bell Choir Choir
Thur., Feb 2	6 PM 7 PM	UCC Meditation UCC Choir
Sat., Feb 4	8 AM 6 PM	Men's Breakfast AA Meeting

## Celebrating in our Community

Jan. 4	Susan Jogoda	Jan. 16	Birthdays of Marty and Barbara Schaefer
Jan. 5	Mike Odle Laurie Pangelina	Jan. 18	Liz Smith Agnes Chen
Jan. 6	Anniversary of Peter and Nora Krey Chris Pangelina	Jan. 23	Tyler Lohman Paul Lubkeman
Jan. 8	Josh Krey	Jan. 26	Rafaela Rohrbach
Jan. 11	Cindy Fosselius	Jan. 27	Nathan Garcia
Jan. 14	Brian Grosenheider	Jan. 30	Annette Larsen Anniversary of Keith and Orlando
Jan. 15	Becky Osman		

## Second Mile Giving, January Generous Contributions Coming In! Still time to give!

**Pat will match any every dollar that is given in January!!!!**

This past fall, through a series of fortunate events, the preschool I run in Berkeley, Gay Austin School, accepted a four year old from Syria named Saleh Ashor. He and his family were part of the group of Syrian refugees allowed into the country under President Obama's plan. They are living for a year with a former Gay Austin family while they learn English and establish a network for themselves.



*Saleh as a Christmas Elf*

The family includes father, Mohammed, mother, Zenab, and little sister, Sham. This beautiful Muslim family has been embraced by the wonderful community we have at school, and Saleh is learning English faster than his parents! He is learning and participating in many American customs. Can you imagine being exposed to Halloween for the

very first time as an adult? How strange some of our customs are.

Now, here's the reason I am telling you about the Ashor family. When the family left Damascus several years ago, Mohammed lost his livelihood as a carpenter and needless to say, left all his tools behind. I began thinking about how I might help him and his family regain some dignity and I thought wouldn't it be great to give him a substantial gift card to Home Depot so he could begin building his tool chest again?

So, during the month of January, I will match every dollar that comes in for Second Mile Giving and I will present Mohammed with a gift card at the end of the month. Please give as you are able and know you are supporting the least of our brethren. I myself am moved to tears when I think of this family, all they left behind, the continued stress they feel over the uncertainty in Syria and family left behind, and yet how they can continue to smile and feel grateful. It is I who am truly blessed ~ Pat Cosgrove