



# Focus on Christ

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

## Your Input is Important and Needed!

Surveys, headlines, personal struggles and ... gratitude. There IS a connection...

I hope by now you have all finished your CLC demographics surveys for your call committee; and thank you for doing so! This Sunday I'll have a different survey for you – a congregation-wide review of how things are going at Christ Lutheran. This will be **your** assessment of strengths, growth edges, highlights and challenges here, so be assured there are no right or wrong answers. If these surveys can be completed in a couple of weeks, they will help us move toward setting up cottage meetings.



Of course, with the daily headlines and your own busy calendars and personal struggles, it may seem like thinking about how life at CLC is flowing is just one more thing on the to-do list. There IS a lot going on these days, whether at church, in our own lives and on the news. But as Christ-followers, we know we are not alone in all this. God is at work in our lives and in the life of this country and throughout the world. Especially in times of stress or struggle, we need to be intentional about seeing that!

So I have a suggestion: take a moment each day to tell God what you are grateful for. You can write a line or two in a small notebook by your bedside, or offer a daily prayer of gratitude, or find a “gratitude partner” to share thanks with. You can do this first thing in the morning or last thing at night or in the middle of the day. I kept a gratitude journal as my spiritual discipline last year, and found it connected me to hope on a daily basis, because it was a continuing reminder that God is present.

I am grateful for YOU, people of Christ Lutheran. God has blessed this congregation in countless ways, and you have responded to that blessing by using your gifts and resources for the good of so many others. Thank you – and keep up the good work you do in the name of Christ! ~ Pastor Lori

## CELEBRATING IN OUR COMMUNITY

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Feb. 2</b> Pat Cosgrove                       | <b>Feb. 15</b> Allyson Jagoda                       |
| <b>Feb. 3</b> Elisabeth Vergun                   | <b>Feb. 17</b> Anniversary of Andrew & Heather Bell |
| <b>Feb. 4</b> Dolores Grosenheider               | <b>Feb. 20</b> Anniversary of Chris & Dave Todd     |
| <b>Feb. 6</b> Jan Snidow                         | <b>Feb. 21</b> Trish Osman                          |
| <b>Feb. 12</b> Adam Schneider<br>Madeline Larsen | <b>Feb. 25</b> Haley Grosenheider                   |
| <b>Feb. 15</b> Brandon Osman                     |   |

## ELCA presiding bishop addresses President Trump's refugee executive order

*(Chicago, January 30, 2017 - Edited to fit – Full version can be read at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.* Yesterday, we heard these words in the Gospel reading from Matthew 5:1-12, the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes, Jesus lays out a vision for life in God's realm, characterized by seeing those who are often most disregarded as bearers of God's blessing. *(continue on back page)*

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



February 3, 2017

# The weeks to come

Sat., Feb 4	8 AM 6 PM	Men's Breakfast AA Meeting
Sun., Feb 5	10 AM 11:30 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Annual Meeting Mira Vista Service Al-Anon
Mon., Feb 6	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., Feb 7	4:30 PM 7 PM	Girl Scouts AA Meeting
Wed., Feb 8	5:30 PM 7 PM 8 PM	WOW Bell Choir Choir
Thur., Feb 9	6 PM 7 PM	UCC Meditation UCC Choir
Sat., Feb 11	6 PM	AA Mgt
Sun., Feb 12	10 AM 11 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Women's Bible Study Mira Vista Service Al-Anon
Mon., Feb 13	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., Feb 14	3:30 PM 6:30 PM 7 PM	Vale Worship Team Mtg. AA Mgt.
Wed., Feb 15	7 PM 8 PM	Bell Choir Choir
Thur., Feb 16	6 PM 7 PM	UCC Meditation UCC Choir
Sat., Feb 18	9 AM 6 PM	AAUW AA Mgt
Sun., Feb 19	10 AM 11:30 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Steering Team Mtg. Mira Vista Service Al-Anon
Mon., Feb 20	President's Day - No Senior Center	
Tues., Feb 21	3:30 PM 7 PM	Vale AA Mgt.
Wed., Feb 22	5:30 PM 7 PM 8 PM	WOW Bell Choir Choir
Thur., Feb 23	6 PM 6 PM 7 PM	Souper Center Sandwich Making UCC Meditation UCC Choir

In this spirit, earlier last week I communicated with the Trump administration asking that it not stop the U.S. refugee admissions program or stop resettlement from any country for any period of time. The Bible calls us to welcome the stranger and treat the sojourner as we would our own citizens. I agree with the importance of keeping our country secure but I am convinced that temporarily banning vulnerable refugees will not enhance our safety nor does it reflect our values as Christians. Instead, it will cause immediate harm by separating families, disrupting lives, and denying safety and hope to those who are already suffering and have fled persecution because of race, religion, nationality and political views.

People of faith helped start and still sustain the refugee resettlement program in the United States following World War II. As Lutherans, many of our ancestors faced the pain of having to flee their homes and being welcomed to the United States. As we have done throughout history Lutherans are committed to continuing ministries of welcome and stand firmly against any policies that result in scaling back the refugee resettlement program.

We must offer safety to people fleeing religious persecution regardless of their faith tradition. Christians and other religious minorities suffer persecution and rightly deserve protection, but including additional criteria based on religion could have discriminatory effects that would go against our nation's fundamental values related to freedom of religion.

I invite ELCA congregations into learning, prayer and action on behalf of those who seek refuge on our shores. The [ELCA "Social Message on Immigration," AMMPARO strategy](#) and [LIRS resources](#) are good places to start. You can also make a donation to [Lutheran Disaster Response](#). I also

encourage you to consider adding your voice by calling your members of Congress to share your support for refugees and using online advocacy opportunities through current alerts at [ELCA Advocacy](#) and [LIRS](#).  
God's peace,

**The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton**  
Presiding Bishop  
ELCA



# The weeks to come

## Continued

Fri., Feb 24	10:30 AM	Serve at Souper Center
Sat., Feb 25	6 PM	AA Mgt
Sun., Feb 26	10 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Mira Vista Service Al-Anon
Mon., Feb 27	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., Feb 28	3:30 PM 7 PM	Vale AA Mgt.
Wed., March 1	7 PM	Ash Wednesday Worship