



# 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



March 3, 2017

## Some Lenten Thoughts

Ash Wednesday was a moving start to our Christian observance of the season of Lent, with its traditional disciplines of praying, fasting and giving alms. With the chancel glowing in candlelight, we fasted from the busy-ness of daily life and sat in silence to contemplate Jesus' temptations in the wilderness – and our own. We sang, *“Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray”* – embodying our prayer before the cross. And we sang, *“Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est,”* which means *“Where there is charity and love, God is dwelling there”* – a reminder and call to give to those in need, at Lent and always.



Then we received the ash crosses on our foreheads: *“You are dust, you are ash ... and you are loved.”*

Our observance of the introspective 40 days of Lent is grounded in the 40 days Jesus was tempted in desert. As we heard Wednesday night, Jesus was lead by the Spirit into the desert immediately after he was named God's beloved child in his baptism; even Jesus needed to learn how to live into his identity. We, too, are named God's own in our baptisms; so we, too, are urged by the Spirit to engage in whatever help us live into our true selves before God.

Following last Sunday's Transfiguration celebration, the gospel texts for Lent explore stories of those transfigured by their encounter with Jesus: Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, a man born blind, and Lazarus. Like our ancestors in the faith, how are **we** being transformed by our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection? We could just let the next few weeks pass by like any other without giving this a thought – or we could make a conscious effort to consider our life in Christ this Lent season. Let's choose the latter!

I invite you choose a focus for your **prayer** this Lent. Perhaps you could pray for the political dysfunction in our country, or you could pray for the Holy Spirit's palpable presence during this transitional time at Christ Lutheran. If you have never **fasted** for Lent, you could choose a food to remove from your diet (to contemplate your “need” for that food and what God provides), or you could fast from one thing that distracts you from nurturing your faith (too much time online, or never allowing yourself “down time,” perhaps?). **Giving** beyond your pledged offering is easy to do through Second Mile Giving; and maybe you will also give your time and perspective by participating in the small-group “cottage meetings” that will help us consider what CLC is about now.

All are invited to also make Wednesday Lent worship part of your Lenten journey. At 7 p.m. each Wednesday in March we will sing Holden Evening Prayer and have time to meditate on the Word among us. You will fast from busyness, pray in the candlelit sanctuary and give your true self to God

Lenten blessings,  
Pr. Lori

# The weeks to come

Sat., Mar. 4	11 AM 6 PM	M. Guthrie's Memorial AA Meeting
Sun., Mar. 5	10 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Mira Vista Service AI-Anon
Mon., Mar. 6	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., Mar. 7	4:30 PM 7 PM	Girl Scouts AA Meeting
Wed., Mar. 8	7 PM 7:30 PM 8:15 PM	Holden Evening Prayer Bell Choir Choir
Thur., Mar. 9	6 PM 7 PM	UCC Meditation UCC Choir
Fri., Mar. 10	6 PM	G.O.T. Hunger Meal Shepherd of the Hills
Sat., Mar. 11	6 PM	AA Mtg.
Sun., Mar. 12	10 AM 11 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Women's Bible Study Mira Vista Service AI-Anon
Mon., Mar. 13	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., Mar. 14	3:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 7 PM	Vale Girl Scouts Worship Team Mtg. AA Mtg.
Wed., Mar. 15	7 PM 7:30 PM 8:15 PM	Holden Evening Prayer Bell Choir Choir
Thur., Mar. 16	6 PM 7 PM	UCC Meditation UCC Choir
Sat., Mar. 18	9 AM 6 PM	AAUW AA Mgt
Sun., Mar. 19	10 AM 11:30 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Steering Team Mtg. Mira Vista Service AI-Anon
Mon., Mar. 20	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., Mar. 21	3:30 PM 7 PM	Vale AA Mtg.
Wed., Mar. 22	7 PM 7:30 PM 8:15 PM	Holden Evening Prayer Bell Choir Choir

## Celebrating in our Community

- Mar. 8 Jenny Peters  
Judy Streets
- Mar. 9 Shannon Lubkeman
- Mar. 11 Christina Battermann
- Mar. 13 LeeAnn Odle
- Mar. 15 Audrey Osman
- Mar. 16 Rebekah Ponce-Larsen
- Mar. 17 Lars Rohrbach
- Mar. 18 Marie Holm
- Mar. 22 Alexondra Hernandez
- Mar. 25 Deborah Larsen
- Mar. 30 Marcus Hernandez

## A thank you from Virginia Mueller

To my church family,

How does a mother bury her child..Karen was my beautiful baby, my little girl, my teenager with pony tail, poodle skirt, and saddle shoes... And then, a loving mother and grandmother. She was always my little girl. I have been truly blessed.

The cards, calls, thoughts, and prayers from this congregation have made such a difference...surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. From my entire family, we thank you for such caring, loving concern.

God bless you,  
Virginia

# The weeks to come

## Continued

Thur., Mar. 23	6 PM 7 PM	UCC Meditation UCC Choir
Sat., Mar. 25	6 PM	AA Mtg.
Sun., Mar. 26	10 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Mira Vista Service AI-Anon
Mon., Mar. 27	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., Mar. 28	3:30 PM 7 PM	Vale AA Mtg.
Wed., Mar 29	7 PM 7:30 PM 8:15 PM	Holden Evening Prayer Bell Choir Choir
Thurs., Mar 30	6 PM 7 PM	UCC Meditation UCC Choir

## G.O.T. (God out there) Joint Confirmation

The joint confirmation candidates will participate in a G.O.T. event on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 401 Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley.

They will stand in solidarity with those who experience the pain of hunger by participating in a "hunger meal".

Following the meal they will prepare food for the youth shelter.