



# Focus on Christ

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

## Interim pastor's message August 2017

Christ  
Lutheran  
Church

A Christ-  
caring  
community

780 Ashbury  
Avenue

El Cerrito  
California  
510 524-1050

Rev. Lori Eickmann  
Interim Pastor

Marty Schaefer  
Organist

George Fosselius  
Choir Director

Bill Goehring  
Office Manager



August 2017

Thanks to all for your participation in the **Who We Are and Here We Stand** visioning sessions! As you receive this newsletter, we will be completing the second session. CLC has identified key strengths (being friendly/welcoming, quality music and spirit); key opportunities (diversity in the community, use of the internet/social media and CLC's location); and a key weakness (outreach to community). These Central Themes, along with ideas you'll be brainstorming to address these themes, will inform your short-term goals, which in turn inform what types of skills will be needed in your next pastor.

The next step is that your call committee will use the input from the visioning sessions to complete the Ministry Site Profile. Your steering team will continue to provide leadership in the specifics of how the congregation's goals are implemented and outcomes evaluated. Of course, there is no need to wait on embracing your ideas for outreach or for making the most of your location, etc. Coming up this fall is **God's Work, Our Hands Sunday** (Sept. 10) and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Reformation** (Oct. 29). How will these or other events reach out and let the neighborhood know CLC is a faith community that shares God's inclusive grace?

In August, as summer nears its end, our gospel texts continue to challenge us in what it means to grow as followers of Christ. Who do **we** say Christ is? (*Mt. 16:15*) What does that mean for how we live as a faith community planted in a neighborhood that continues to change? What does CLC have to offer people looking for truth, meaning and connection in uncertain times? When we know who Christ is and who we are, we can make our stand – and we trust the Spirit to help and guide us.

### Summer and Nature: A time for relaxation and re-creation.

Ah, summer! A time to get away from it all. Many choose to spend their summer time in nature, whether getting away to the basics by camping in the wilds or visiting places of splendid beauty. It serves as a time when we can experience and ponder the awesome wonder and majesty of creation. As Christians, we understand creation as not complete, but an ongoing process, the building of the kingdom on earth. We have been given power to share in the ongoing process of creation to change and enhance nature. We also have the power to destroy and damage it.

Should you have an opportunity to get away this summer, why not take the time to reflect on your role in creation. Rest and relaxation can re-create our spirit and enhance our own creative gifts to share with our global community for the common good. Inspire a great reverence for nature for yourselves and your children. As stewards of creation, find ways to limit your carbon footprint and preserve what is good. Fight to eliminate whatever leads to destruction and waste. Seek first the kingdom of God, and work to create a world that is life giving, peaceful and loving for all living beings.



## Save the Dates

MEN'S BREAKFAST  
**Saturday, August 5 at 8 AM**

WORSHIP TEAM MEETING  
**Tuesday, August 8 at 6:30 PM**

STEERING TEAM MEETING  
**Sunday, August 20, 11:30 AM**

CALL COMMITTEE MEETING  
**Tuesday, August 22, 6 – 7:30 PM**

## Celebrating in Our Community

**Aug.1** Eric Fosselius

**Aug.3** Elsa-Jennie Bliss

**Aug.4** Lori Bjelland

**Aug.16** Anniversary of  
Donna & Steve  
Batterman

**Aug.17** Soren Rohrbach

**Aug.18** Anniversary of  
Brian Reynolds &  
Saraswati Lama  
Christopher Larsen

**Aug.20** Deborah Robinson

**Aug. 22** Heather Bell

**Aug. 25** Virginia Mueller

**Aug. 26** Kevin Osman

**Aug. 27** Margaret Lawrence

**Aug. 31** Anniversary of Ellen  
Williams and Kris Whitten

### **New Contact for Adam Schneider:**

(after September 1)

552 Atwater Ave.

Mississauga Ontario, L5G2A6, CANADA

**The Lunch Bunch** will NOT be meeting at Denny's during the month of August. It will resume in September. Contact Lysle at 685-7434 for more information.

### **Call for Liturgical Ministers**

The Sunday liturgical celebration at CLC is always one of beauty and prayer. CLC is blessed with many who understand the importance of corporate worship and participation in the liturgy. While the ministry of the assembly is vital to our worship, those leading it in special roles invite the assembly more fully into the action of breaking open the Word of God in proclamation and taking, blessing and sharing the bread and the cup in Holy Communion.

Please consider volunteering for the particular ministries of leadership and preparation by signing up on the sheets in the church hall. We are especially in need of people willing to train as **liturgical assistants**. Some may feel that they cannot be an assistant as it sometimes requires singing. Not true! You can serve as an assistant and a cantor can lead the sung parts. George Fosselius has volunteered to train anyone who is interested.

Aside from the need for liturgical assistants, we need lectors, choir members, bell choir members and ushers. If you are more of a "behind the scene" person, we need volunteers for communion set-up and clean-up, offering counters, altar flowers and help with coffee hour set-up and clean-up. Leadership is a way to serve the community. Sign up today!

### **Men's Monthly Breakfast**

Men from CLC gather the first Saturday of the Month at Fat Apple Restaurant for breakfast at 8 AM. The gathering is informal and gives men of our congregation a chance to know each other in a safe spirit of Christian fellowship. Anywhere from 6-12 men attend. There is no need to reserve a spot. Just show up and join in the conversation.

### **New Carpeting for the Nursery Class Room Coming This Week!**

Thanks to Marty and Barbara Schaefer, the 30 year old dingy carpet in the nursery classroom will be replaced with new carpet squares. The beauty of such squares is if there is a spill that stains, the stained square can be replaced. Thanks to Marty and George for moving the furniture in and out and to Marty and Barbara who have cleaned the classroom and donated the squares.