



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

George Fosselius
Choir Director

Marquise Usher
Bell Choir Director

Bill Goehring
Office Manager



September
2017

Interim pastor's message September 2017

Thanks again to everyone who participated in the Who We Are and Here We Stand visioning events! I will offer a summary of the results during coffee hour on **Sept. 17** – but until then, here are highlights:

After discerning CLC's top strengths, opportunities and main weakness during the first session, you chose at the second to pursue some specific ideas to address those opportunities and the key weakness.

Goal #1 – Step up advertising and communication to address CLC's weakness toward outreach to the community and communications within. The next step is to plan how to do this using your website, venues such as Next Door, Google Ads and email, and personal invitation, as well as the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter.

Goal #2 – Revive or create music events such as open-mic nights – especially with an eye toward including local musicians from many cultures to embrace the opportunity to welcome ethnically diverse neighbors.

Goal #3 – Learn more about partnering with other congregations to spur ideas for expanding ministries and reach. For example, some Oakland congregations jointly hire a child-youth-family minister. Your Steering Team plans to meet with the synod's Director of Evangelical Mission to hear what other congregations are doing.

In addition, you considered what skills your next pastor would need to help you reach these goals. We'll look at those on Sept. 17 as well, and the Call Committee – which is already using your input to begin writing the Ministry Site Profile – will offer brief highlights of their demographics survey.

So who are you, as a congregation, and where do you stand? Who do **you**, church, say Jesus is? I invite you to look at these goals in light of CLC mission statement (hint: if you're not sure what it is, look at the website or the weekly bulletin!), and bring your thoughts and questions on Sept. 17.

GWOH - God's Work, Our Hands

Bring your laptop or tablet and we'll provide the paper, envelopes and pens on Sept. 10 — "God's Work, Our Hands Sunday." Following a shorter worship service, you can write letters, postcards and emails to elected officials and the White House. Of course, you can invite someone to worship and work with you!

Sample letters from the ELCA will be available for you to personalize on the topics of funding environmental programs, school nutrition programs and programs that address poverty and other root causes of migration and immigration. Fact sheets about climate change from Interfaith Power and Light and postcards to send to lawmakers will be available, too. Or, you can email the White House on any topic you choose, from racial violence to health care.



Here are some tips for your letters, postcards and emails:

*In handwritten letters, write neatly in ink. *(continued on back page)*

*Start with why you care about the topic you are writing about. Be concise, but don't be afraid to use a personal story. Even if you use portions of a form letter, personalize the opening and closing lines to show why you care.

*You can identify yourself as a member of Christ Lutheran in El Cerrito, CA, or as a Lutheran Christian (and as a student, parent, scientist, business owner, etc. and voter!).

*Include your return address, phone and/or email address.

Save the Dates

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, September 2 at 8 AM

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Sunday, September 10 after Worship

WORSHIP TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 PM

SUMMARY OF VISIONING

Sunday, September 17 after Worship

WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, September 24

STEERING TEAM MEETING

Sunday, September 24 at 11:30 AM

BLESSING OF THE PETS

Sunday, Oct 1 at 10 AM Worship

POTLUCK AND VIEWING OF

"LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION"

Sunday, Oct 8 after Worship

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Matt. 25:40)

Celebrating in Our Community

Sept. 5 Anniversary of
Scott & Carol Freer

Sept. 10 Julie Dienstein

Sept. 16 Evie Dolven
Scott Freer

Sept. 16 Anniversary of
Carol Arnold &

Gary Thompson

Sept. 20 Kyle Holm

Sept. 25 Dan Lubkeman

New address for Sylvia Gott:

Sylvia has moved to the newly opened Belmont Village in Albany.

She can be reached by mail or phone:

1100 San Pablo Avenue, Apt. 432

Albany CA 94706 (510) 525-6169

College address for Søren Rohrbach:

200 Roskie Hall, Room 222

Bozeman MT 59715-5080

Cards and notes of encouragement are always appreciated.

Second Mile Giving for September goes to ELCA Disaster Relief for victims of Hurricane Harvey. Please be generous

Got Sunday School? Yes! Christ

Lutheran will offer Sunday school

during worship starting **Sept. 24**. From then until the end of the year, we are test-driving Sunday school on the **second and fourth Sunday of each month**. This will replace the twice-monthly WOW (Worship on Wednesdays) for now, and we will evaluate the changes at the end of the year.

Children pre-school through grade school will be invited to leave worship after a children's message, learn a Bible lesson in class, and then return to worship during sharing of the peace so they can join in Holy Communion. We will still offer childcare for those too young for Sunday school.

The young families of CLC are hopeful this will help their children's faith formation and connection to the church community. **But they need our help:** you can support this effort by volunteering for teaching or assisting a parent teacher once a month or as a substitute.

See Pastor Lori if you can offer your skills and heart to the next generation of Christ followers!

Blessing of the Pets: On Sunday, Oct 1st our worship service will include the Blessing of the Animals as we remember the life and witness of St. Francis of Assisi – lover of all God's creatures and creation. Plan to bring your pets and invite your neighbors to bring theirs, too! Worship will take place in the parish hall.

Dinner and a Movie! On Sunday, Oct 8th, after worship, we will host a potluck and viewing of Rick Steves' "Luther and the Reformation" – the one-hour PBS special commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Steves, travel author and proud Lutheran, takes viewers along Martin Luther's footsteps and presents the larger political economic and theological context. Invite a friend – Lutheran or non-Lutheran – to worship and/or the potluck and movie!