



# 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, Oct. 2017

Christ  
Lutheran  
Church

A Christ-  
caring  
community

780 Ashbury  
Avenue

El Cerrito  
California  
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Rev. Lori Eickmann  
Interim Pastor

Marty Schaefer  
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Choir Director

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October 2017

It was 500 years ago this month that the Reformation was ignited when the German monk Martin Luther composed 95 discussion points targeting corruption in the medieval church. When Luther posted his "95 theses" on the church door in his hometown of Wittenberg in 1517, he unwittingly let loose a firestorm of reforms not just in the church but in the secular world.

In keeping with our reformation heritage, what reforms are we letting loose in our church and society today?\*

Luther helped the Christian church remember that it is not our own works but God's grace that keeps us in right relationship with God. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast."* (Ephesians 2:8-9) **How does CLC make that amazing grace of God visible in the East Bay and beyond?**

\* Luther was the first to translate the Bible into German so that average folks not versed in Latin could read it themselves – and in doing so, he created a unified German language. In addition, Luther wrote catechisms to aid families in understanding the Bible and the Christian faith. **In this multicultural area, how can we bridge language and culture to build relationships and explore faith with our neighbors?**

\* In a time of church corruption and rising nationalism, Luther's example was to be accountable to God's authority and the Christian conscience. At a time when religious work was seen as "holier" than secular jobs, Luther advanced the idea that any work a Christian does is his or her sacred calling. **How does this resonate with today's church struggle to "be relevant" and to speak good news where there is conflict and division?**

Think about what needs to be reformed today, whether at Christ Lutheran, the larger Christian church, this neighborhood, this country or this planet. We will post our own ideas on **Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29**. After all, we are the reforming church, called by Christ for the sake of the world!

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)*

**GOT Sunday School?** Yes, it began on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> and will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month through December 10<sup>th</sup>. Children are invited to leave worship after a children's message, learn a Bible lesson in class, and then return to worship for Holy Communion. Childcare will be offered for those too young for Sunday School.



*Pastor Lori dismisses Sunday School Students from worship*

**Update from Call Committee:** The call committee has begun the process of writing the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP is a description of our church (its history, demographics, staffing patterns), our community, our mission goals, our strengths and weaknesses, our expectations for our new pastor, and more. In completing this we have drawn on the information gathered from you, the congregation, in our various surveys, cottage meetings, and vision meetings. This is an important document that pastoral candidates will review in order to see if they are a match for our church, and vice versa. When finished, we will share this with all of you. We are hoping to be able to post this online in a month or so, with the expectation that we will interview candidates in the months following. Ideally we hope to have hired our new pastor early next year. Please continue to pray during this process.

## SAVE THE DATES

PET BLESSING

**Sunday, Oct 1 at 10 AM Worship**

BELL CHOIR/CHOIR PRACTICE

**Wed, Oct. 4 (BC 7 PM/Ch 8 PM)**

MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Saturday, October 7 at 8 AM**

WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday, Oct 8 during 10 am Worship**

POTLUCK AND VIEWING OF

"LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION"

**Sunday, Oct 8 after Worship**

WORSHIP TEAM MEETING

**Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 6:30 pm**

BELL CHOIR/CHOIR PRACTICE

**Wed. Oct. 11 (BC 7 PM/Ch 8 PM)**

BREAD FOR THE WORLD SUNDAY

**Sunday, Oct.15 – Letter writing**

STEERING TEAM MEETING

**Sunday, Oct. 15th at 11:30 AM**

BELL CHOIR/CHOIR PRACTICE

**Wed. Oct. 18 (BC 7 PM/Ch 8 PM)**

WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday, Oct 22 during 10 am Worship**

BELL CHOIR/CHOIR PRACTICE

**Wed. Oct. 25 (BC 7 PM/Ch 8 PM)**

SANDWICH MAKING & SERVING

**Thurs, Oct 26 Sandwich making at CLC at 6 PM, Friday, Oct 27 serving at GRIP – 10:30 AM**

REFORMATION 500 COMMENORATION

**Sunday, Oct. 29 at Grace Cathedral, Bach Concert, Justice Declaration, 2 PM Festival Worship, 3 PM**

**Dinner and a Movie!** On Sunday, Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, after worship, we will host a potluck and viewing of Rick Steves' "Luther and the Reformation" – the one-hour PBS special commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Steves, travel author and proud Lutheran, take 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!

### Celebrating our Community

Oct.4 Jane Strohl

Oct. 9 Caitlin Vainio

Oct. 10 Phoenix Ponce-Larsen

Oct. 11 Ellen Williams

Oct. 19 Anniversary of Brandon and Trish Osman

Oct. 19 Mark Krey

M. Grosenheider

Oct. 20 Lauren Barton

Oct. 23 Peter Fosselius

Oct. 25 George Graudushus

Oct. 27 Nora Krey

Oct. 31 Michael Tieku

### End Hunger by 2030!

Oct. 15 is "Bread for the World" Sunday. We live in a nation where 1 in 6 children live in households that struggle to put food on the table.

You are invited to join the effort to end hunger by being part of an Offering of Letters asking Congress to pass laws that help all who are struggling with hunger and poverty. Like our advocacy letters on "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, background information and sample letters will be available, along with paper and envelopes, or you can email or text your elected officials. The letter-writing will Oct.happen during coffee hour right after worship.

**PLTS Sold:** Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary property was sold to Zaytuna College of Berkeley – the first accredited Muslim liberal arts college in the U. S. PLTS will continue its mission at a new

campus on Center Street in Berkeley and is part of the California Lutheran University. PLTS and Cal Lutheran are gratified that the property was sold to an organization that would preserve the character of the campus guided by values and mission similar to PLTS and Cal. Lutheran.

### Reforming: Past - Present - Future

We are the reforming church — always being made new! Be part of the special Sierra Pacific Synod-wide and ecumenical worship service for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation: **Grace Cathedral, SF, Sunday, October 29, 2017 2:00 - 5:45 PM** More information is available on the Synod website ([spelca.org](http://spelca.org)) and Facebook page. Carpooling is highly recommended.