



# 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 December 2017 message

So often we hear: "At Advent we await the birth of the Christ Child." But Jesus was born 2,000 years ago! So is Advent an exercise in *re-enacting* awaiting the birth of Jesus? Or is it about anticipating Christ's return?

Meister Eckhart, 13<sup>th</sup> Century Christian mystic, said, "*We are all meant to be mothers of God. For God is always needing to be born.*"

God is always needing to be born. The brilliant love and mercy of God incarnate every day shines through the darkness of suffering and injustice. Advent invites us into the spiritual practice of anticipating and pondering the pregnant possibilities of each day. Advent opens us to see that Christ is always coming, always exhorting us, as we'll hear this month in Mark's gospel, to "stay awake." We'll also hear Isaiah's assurance that God turns our mourning into laughter, and we'll marvel at Mary's example of hope and faith.



This Advent season, let us be intentional in paying attention to what God is birthing in us and through us. Let us make time to contemplate and give thanks for the life-changing ramifications of Christ's mercy poured out today – even through the prayers, words and actions of ordinary believers like you and me.

Then all are welcome on Christmas Eve – that holy night when we offer candle-lit praise to *Emmanuel*, God-with-us. CLC's worship will begin at 5 p.m.; Mira Vista offers a 7:30 p.m. candlelight service. Invite someone to share the anticipated celebration!

## November Steering Team Meeting Summary:

- Discussed what the HARP and Brewing Hope Funds are being used for and an explanation of both.
- HARP is a fund for bigger repairs and replacement such as the roof or furnace etc, something that is not budgeted.
- Brewing Hope was started to further our mission in other areas as a start up program for outreach.
- We are looking for non-profit organizations to rent out the Robinson Properties rooms.
- Christmas Party Dec 8th

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



December 2017

## SAVE THE DATES

MEN'S BREAKFAST  
**Saturday, Dec. 2 at 8 AM**

CHOIR PRACTICE  
**Wed, Dec. 6 at 7:30 PM**

CLC CHRISTMAS PARTY  
**Friday, Dec. 8 at 6 PM**

WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL  
**Sunday, Dec. 10 at 10 am**  
Worship

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY  
**Sunday, Dec. 10 at 11:30 AM**

WORSHIP TEAM MEETING  
**Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 pm**

CHOIR PRACTICE  
**Wed. Dec. 13 at 7:30 PM**

STEERING TEAM MEETING  
**Sunday, Dec. 17 at 11:00 AM**

GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE  
**Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 PM**

VALE PARTY AND CAROLING  
**Thurs., Dec. 21 at 4 PM**

GRIP SANDWICH MAKING  
**Thurs., Dec. 21 at 6 PM**

SERVING AT GRIP  
**Friday, Dec 22 at 11:30 AM**

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING  
WORSHIP, SUNDAY 4 ADVENT  
**Sunday, Dec. 24 at 10 AM**

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP  
**Sunday, Dec. 24 at 5 PM**

## Celebrating our Community

Dec. 2	Mitchell Evan	Dec. 16	Chris Todd
Dec. 3	Karen Power		Sarah Guthrie
Dec. 9	Peter Krey	Dec. 17	Barbara Mespelt
Dec 11	Anniversary of John & Laurie Pangelina		Carol Arnold
Dec. 14	Anniversary of Ben & Julie Dienstein	Dec. 26	Orlando Gonzalez
		Dec. 31	Sharon Lubkeman

## CLC's 2017 Christmas Party

Our 2017 Annual Christmas Party is **Friday, Dec. 8th, beginning at 6 PM!** Bring your family and invite neighbor and friends to join the fun. As usual please bring a side dish or salad to go along with our entrée. One of the best parts of the party is sharing all the great food that you bring. We also want to be sure that everyone is able to come because it wouldn't be a party without you, so if you need a ride please let a Pastor Lori or the office know. Lots of fun and games, you don't want to miss this one!

We would love to share the CLC love, please bring a **can for the food bank** or a **pair of warm socks** for the sock drive for the Vale Community.



*Last Year's Christmas Party*

**DANIEL SHANTU joins CLC:** We have a new member who will join CLC on Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Daniel Shantu will preach on the first Sunday of Advent and also join our CLC congregation. He was born in Ethiopia and became a Lutheran while in high school. He attended seminary in Norway and at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and was approved for ordination in the ELCA in Washington, DC in 2010. He is now a PhD candidate at the GTU, writing his dissertation on Christology in the age of religious pluralism, and is working to transfer his candidacy to the Sierra Pacific Synod. His wife and son are still in Norway. We welcome Daniel and are grateful that he will be among us sharing his many gifts.

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** is both the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. There will be two services that day at CLC. At 10 AM, there will be a brief service to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. Our Christmas Eve Festival Worship will be at 5 PM. There will be no service on Christmas Morning.

**Special German Christmas Service** will be held at CLC on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. Pastor Peter Krey will lead, in German, a worship service and German carols. All are invited to attend.

**Sock Collection and Caroling for Vale Community:** We will be collecting socks for the men and women at Vale to be handed out on December 21st at 4 PM along with Christmas Caroling. All are welcome to come and carol with the children and adults as we celebrate Christmas with them.