

Christ Lutheran Church  
**Connected**

August 2009

*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

John 10:10



If you are a Senior or know  
someone who is—  
See inside for ways we all can make  
the most of our “Golden Years”

## CLC Connected

The monthly newsletter of  
Christ Lutheran Church  
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Preschool Director Chris Porrazzo

## Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00AM Traditional Services  
9:30 AM Blended Worship  
11:00 AM Informal Worship

# Thoughts from Pastor Joe

As you have heard me mention on Sunday morning many times, VBS was a great success again this year. My thanks and appreciation to Jen Franco, Kathleen, and their team in putting together a truly fine program – the first time we have tried doing two weeks. Here is some data you might be interested in:

- Not only did we have close to 700 kids on campus over two weeks, but we also had 366 volunteers for the two weeks (that includes people who served both weeks and so were counted twice). About 50% of our volunteers were post-high school adults.
- 542 families were enrolled over the two weeks, of which 41% had not attended last year.
- 20% of the children came from no home church.

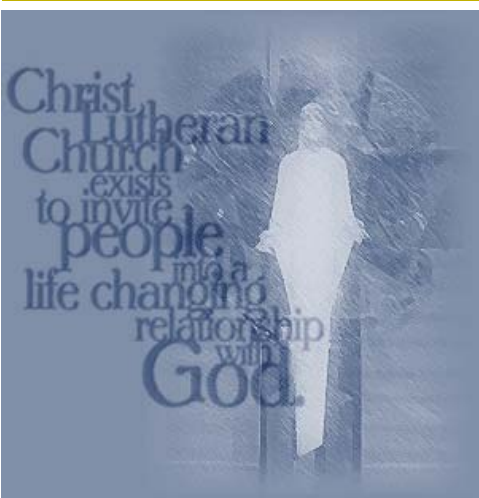
Clearly, this was truly a great outreach. I heard many stories over the two weeks having to do with appreciation that our congregation does such a fine job, kids who were talking about God with someone for the first time, and people considering connecting with our congregation on a permanent basis.

The truly inspiring thing is the wide range of ages and people who help...from the retired folks to the junior high students. Everyone is deeply invested. It was also great to see the increase this year in the number of dads who helped out, especially during the second week.

Next year I'm looking forward to adding a third week of VBS, to be held in downtown Newhall. It would be a modified and much simpler version of what we do here, designed for the kids in that neighborhood who, due to cost or lack of transportation or cultural barriers, do not attend the other two weeks. It would be free and open to "walk-ins". It is a great thing for which to plan, that carries forward the spirit and intent of Compassion Weekend. I am very excited about this possibility.

On another note, many of you likely have heard about the upcoming national assembly of the ELCA in Minneapolis in August. At that time our national church body will be making some decisions that could have a far reaching impact on the stability and cohesiveness of the ELCA. Those decisions have to do with the adoption of a statement on human sexuality and recommendations for a change in ministry policies related to clergy. While the argument appears to be about sexuality, it is, in fact in my opinion, an issue of Biblical authority. If you are interested in reading more on this subject, you can read the social statement and ministry policies recommendation at

<http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements-in-Process/JTF-Human-Sexuality.aspx> I would also recommend you read a critique of it at <http://www.wordalone.org/>



## Something New !

We are truly blessed here at CLC, our members have such a variety of gifts and expertise. As part of the body of Christ, we are asked to share our time and our talents; so beginning this month, our newsletter will be offering articles written by members of our congregation with a focus on a topic we believe will have relevance to everyone. **This Month, Our Focus is On Senior Citizens.** On the following four pages, you will find articles by CLC members Megan Town, Jill Brink-Lemnah, and Melanie Meyer sharing their knowledge and experience in making the most of our "Senior Years". Watch for other topics in the months ahead.

## Council Corner

About six months ago I accepted the nomination to serve on the church council for the next three years. This church is my family and is the reason I have become who I am today. It is my honor to serve our church community and give back to the people who have already given so much to me.

As the middle of summer hits and the heat sets in, our church has been reminded that we are a family. The month of July has once again proved to be a trying time for our congregation, but it brings me great joy to see how our members have rallied together to help in any way possible. The council's thoughts and prayers go out to all of our members who are struggling in these hard times.

In July, council moved forward with our study of the Common Confession. This month we dove into Article 3, the Authority of Scripture. As Lutherans, we believe that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and life. The Bible is not open for our interpretation, but instead, helps us find answers and guidance through our faith and our lives. In order to apply the scripture properly, we must achieve an understanding of the Bible as a whole. The more scripture we study and comprehend, the better equipped we are to apply it to our daily lives.

Just as every summer, two different groups within our congregation have made it home safely from summer mission work. This year's trips brought new challenges to be faced. The most noticeable of these challenges was the turmoil in Mexico. The violence in Mexico forced these two groups of missionaries to find new locations to serve God. Pastor Mike did a wonderful job organizing these trips and thanks to his efforts, our church was once again able to show God's love by helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you Pastor Mike for working so hard to make sure all of this was possible.

At our last meeting we discussed the church's financial situation. The council has been working closely with the newly approved Finance Committee to ensure the financial stability of the church. Both revenues and expenses are under budget for the current year. Our council will be closely monitoring the financial well-being of our church in the coming months, but at the present time, we feel that everything is reasonable given the current economy.

In addition to this, we also discussed different methods to reach out to our community. There are many people in our community who desire a church to call home but do not know where to start their search. As a congregation, we are presented with opportunities to reach out to these people and invite them to our church. We decided to explore the possibility of having business cards made to be given to the members of our congregation for distribution to the community. These business cards will have all the necessary contact information for an individual who might be interested in Christ Lutheran. We will continue to research this possibility in the next couple of months.

Finally, we addressed our policy for fundraising. In an effort to protect our worship environment while still encouraging different giving opportunities, we agreed to make alterations to our fundraising policy. Karen Nelson will be in charge of the policy change over the next month. Most likely, we will announce the new policy after next month's council meeting.

Have a safe and enjoyable second half to your summer. Stay cool.

Yours in Christ,

Mike McGeever

# Caring Seniors Spread God's Love

It's actually my business to know senior citizens. My job is to keep them happy. They, in turn, have done the same for me for the last seven years.

As a Christian, I am aware of the fact that it is my responsibility to spread God's love wherever I go, but I've been blessed enough to incorporate those opportunities into my work life. I am the Activities Director of Valley Oaks Village, an active senior community in Newhall for people ages 55 and better. I throw parties, plan activities, take them on trips, teach exercise classes, and find new ways of enriching the lives of over 250 residents who live in this beautiful environment.

It occurred to me about a year ago that we have a few seniors who volunteer in our growing town of Santa Clarita, and they always have smiles on their faces. I know residents who volunteer at the SCV Senior Center, Henry Mayo Hospital, our local theaters, and other places where they find reward in helping others. When the disaster of Hurricane Katrina destroyed so many homes and lives, we at Valley Oaks Village were able to hold a benefit which raised over \$3000 for the Salvation Army to assist victims in putting their lives back together. Let me tell you that I was privileged to witness many residents of our community walking a little taller that day. They had a sense of pride. They made a difference. They helped. They loved it.

So during Compassion Weekend '09, I had an idea. Our residents were so receptive to the people of Christ Lutheran Church on the day we held an afternoon tea in our clubhouse, I thought, "Why not bring Compassion Weekend to Valley Oaks... permanently!" Pastor Joe spent so much time encouraging us to make a difference in the lives of people outside our church, it finally sunk in.

Thus, the "Apron Club" has been founded at Valley Oaks Village. And Compassion Weekend now exists in my life on a daily basis. I named it "The Apron Club" because we so rarely do things for ourselves when we are wearing our aprons. They have been useful for many years in many ways. We've used them to carry things that our hands were too small to hold, to dust our countertops, to protect our hands and to clean them. We've used aprons to dry our children's and our grandchildren's tears and to wipe the sweat from our brows when working outside on hot days. On chilly evenings, we've wrapped our aprons around little shoulders when calling our hungry kids inside to dinner.

They are not just used to protect our clothing, the Senior Citizens of Valley Oaks Village along with the kindness and assis-

tance of Christ Lutheran Church, are going to put our aprons back on and make a difference!

Our first endeavor is the "AnySoldier Project". We are assembling care packages to send to soldiers overseas, packing them with sorely missed items from home as well as personal letters and handmade treasures contributed by our residents. We just started this project, and already the gifts are pouring in. Many of our folks aren't, nor have they ever been, shy about showing their patriotism, so the promise of helping our soldiers without even having to leave their apartment community is particularly inviting.

Later, we will be working with Global Health Ministries and, just like Compassion Weekend at Christ Lutheran Church, we will be assembling midwife kits to assist people around the globe in delivering babies.

We will also be making comfort bags for chemotherapy patients in Santa Clarita to help people in the process of healing and give them some hope by letting them know we care.

What's great about asking seniors to volunteer is knowing that any project you give them will be done with diligence and dedication. Many of our folks finally have the time to spend working on projects that they simply did not have the opportunities to do before they retired. Others who still work have found that their spare time can be spent rewarding themselves by helping those in need. There is really no bad side to volunteering. In my opinion, it promotes longevity and quality of life. Because the two things I just mentioned are actually part of my job description; my Christianity and my career have found a way to fit together like two pieces of a puzzle.

God answered my question when I stared up into the clouds and asked, "Okay, what can I do to help Your will be done?" I see Him in the etched faces of the people who I have come to call my "surrogate grandparents". They bring me as much joy as I try every day to bring to them.

"The Valley Oaks Village Apron Club....bringing local and global assistance to those in need of our experienced helping hands."

Check us out at [www.valleyoaksvillage.com](http://www.valleyoaksvillage.com) or read more about these projects in our newsletter in the Fellowship Hall.

God Bless,  
Megan Town  
Activities Director  
Valley Oaks Village

# Changes in Memory: What's Normal, What's Not

If you are concerned about your memory, you are not alone. According to a recent MetLife Foundation survey, adults age 55+ fear losing their memory more than they fear heart disease, stroke or diabetes. There is some reason to be concerned: age is the greatest risk factor for memory loss. By the age of 85, almost half the population will experience some form of pathological or disease related memory loss. Losing the ability to remember is not a normal part of aging. However, there are changes in the ability to remember that are normal with age. Understanding and distinguishing the difference is critical.

What are the normal age-related changes in memory and when should I be concerned about memory loss?

Example: You walk into the next room on a quest for some item only to forget what that item was once you reach your destination. Retracing your steps, you realize "Aha! I came in here in search of my glasses, purse, keys, etc." These "aha" moments are common with older adults and reflect a normal change in memory.

Example: At a dinner party, you are introduced to new friends whose names you promptly forget. Don't worry – this is a common complaint. You probably did not pay enough attention to their names to really remember them in the first place. With age, it is normal to forget part of an event; it is not normal to forget the entire event. If you completely forget that you went to a dinner party, this is not normal forgetting and cause for concern.

Example: After shopping at the mall, you walk outside and forget where you parked your car. This happens - don't worry. Again, you probably did not pay enough attention to where you parked in the first place and failed to properly store that information in memory. If you walk outside and become confused about where you are or how you got to the mall, this type of disorientation is not a normal change in memory.

Example: When paying bills, you realize you forgot to record a check in the checkbook register and you can't recall the check information. Don't worry - making occasional errors is normal. If you look at a check and forget what it is used for or how to fill it out, this is not a normal age-related change. When memory loss disrupts daily life, it is time to be concerned.

Age-related changes in memory should not come as a surprise. Can you run as fast as you did when you were 18? Probably not - despite our best efforts to stay healthy, the body ages.

Several factors contribute to these qualitative changes in memory. The speed at which our brains process information slows with age – by a few milliseconds. These milliseconds do add up leading to slower thinking and reaction times. With increasing age, our sensory systems are less acute – the ability to see, hear, taste and discern touch diminishes causing degradation of the incoming sensory information. It is more difficult to remember something when the information isn't as clear. Difficulty paying attention plays a major role in age-related memory changes. While your grandkids can watch television, listen to the Ipod and do homework all at the same time, older adults will have great difficulty dividing their attention and inhibiting distractions. Even in healthy older adults, it requires more effort to concentrate on the task at hand, which influences how well that information is remembered.

It is important to note that, although not as well publicized, there are aspects of intelligence that improve over the life span. Crystallized intelligence is intelligence based on the information, skills, and strategies learned through life experiences that can be applied in problem-solving situations. Research suggests crystallized intelligence continues to increase throughout adulthood. This wealth of accumulated knowledge helps to compensate for some of the age-related declines in other areas of cognition.

Understanding the difference between normal age-related changes in memory and what's not normal is critical in alleviating the fear of memory loss. Fear of memory loss can be overwhelming and the anxiety it produces can intensify confusion and memory loss. If you are concerned about your memory, please consult a physician immediately. Don't be afraid. There are many treatable causes of memory loss including metabolic disorders, thyroid dysfunction, infections, malnutrition, dehydration, medication interactions, and depression. Early detection and intervention is essential for maximum benefits from available treatments. For more information on memory or a physician referral, please call Dr. Brink at the Alzheimer's Association 818-830-4837.

By Jill Brink-Lemnah, Ph.D.  
Geriatric & Dementia Care Specialist  
Aging Interventions

# Facts About Long-Term Care Insurance

## The family long-term care insurance decision

Despite the economic downturn in the U.S. over the past few years, public interest in long-term care insurance is quietly and steadily growing. The interest in long-term care insurance is likely due to three factors: the evolution of these insurance products, limited alternatives for financing care and growing consumer awareness of the benefits of long-term care insurance.

## Product evolution

Long-term care (LTC) insurance policies have evolved over time to be far more flexible than they were in the early days, when they were known as nursing home policies. Today, most policies allow the insured to receive care in the setting of their choice, whether this is at home, in an assisted living facility, adult day care center or nursing home.

Industry standards have developed as well. Most policies offer benefits when a person can no longer perform two out of six “activities of daily living” (such as bathing, dressing or eating), or when they need substantial assistance due to a cognitive impairment. New benefits have come on the scene, such as additional cash allowances on top of basic coverage which pay for extras, like home modifications and home safety checks. Benefits like this make it easier for people to receive assistance at home.

## Limited alternatives

Almost every day we read that the public safety net is slowly disappearing and the Social Security system may be in jeopardy. Even today, publicly-available options for managing long-term care expenses are severely limited.

For example, Medicare typically covers only certain types of care for a limited period of time, leaving many long-term care costs uncovered. Medicaid also is an imperfect solution because

it requires people to spend down their assets to state required levels to qualify. In addition, Medicaid primarily pays for care received in a nursing facility, not at home. Perhaps this explains why even the government decided to offer its employees the option to buy long-term care insurance through a special federal long-term care insurance program.

## Consumer awareness

In part, LTC insurance sales have been driven by a growing consumer awareness of the benefits of long-term care insurance coverage. With more than 25 million adult caregivers in the U.S. today, many people are experiencing long-term care within their own families. Some have witnessed the positive effects of long-term care insurance, which may have allowed their loved ones to remain in their own homes by paying for in-home care.

But many families without long-term care insurance coverage in place have seen the opposite effect—that is, limited choices and the impact of the high costs of long-term care on their family’s financial foundation and security.

## What financial representatives recommend

For the majority of the population who cannot afford to self-insure this risk, some financial representatives are beginning to recommend LTC insurance as a core element of a family’s financial strategy. The advantages of developing a strategy ahead and purchasing the insurance at younger ages (under age 55) include:

- The younger you buy, the cheaper the premiums.
- Younger buyers are more likely to be in a healthy condition to qualify for coverage.



# Long-Term Care Insurance, cont'd

- If long-term care is needed at an earlier age, the family's finances will be protected as the policy will help to cover the costs of care.
- The coverage can pay for caregivers to come into the home, where most people prefer to receive care.

This may explain why the average age of a long-term care insurance buyer has dropped from 72-years old in 1990 to almost 58-years old today.

## Is it worth it?

Few people regret purchasing car insurance or home insurance policies when an accident takes place. The coverage earned is far greater than the annual premiums paid, especially when you consider the alternative: paying for a new car or a new home out-of-pocket. The same is true of long-term care insurance. The benefits paid out under a long-term care insurance policy for one year alone often can exceed the cumulative premiums a client pays into a policy over many years.

For example, if a 55-year-old man purchases a policy that costs \$2,000 per year and pays premiums for 20 years until he needs long-term care at age 75, he will pay a total of \$40,000 in premiums over those 20 years. Compare this to the cost of care at a skilled nursing facility, which can reach \$58,000 per year and is expected to grow five percent per year. A January 10, 2008 SmartMoney.com article citing information from Met Life Mature Market Institute, stated the average cost for a one year nursing home stay is \$75,190 (\$206 per day), and this figure is expected to almost triple over the next 20 years.

In addition, new policy options available on the market today allow partners and family members to share the benefits of a single policy. This gives policies even greater value by making it more likely that the benefits will be used by one family member or another at some point in time.

## Tips for a positive buying experience

### 1. Engage in a family discussion and strategy to think ahead

If you are helping your parents, make sure you understand their future wants and desires. If you are a couple planning for your own long-term care needs, think through your own priorities and those of your children. Long-term care is a family issue.

### 2. Seek assistance

Long-term care insurance is understood with the help of an insurance agent or financial professional who can assess a family's situation and specific needs. Experienced LTC insurance professionals will help you through the buying process by explaining the various features of a policy and how they will benefit you at claim time.

### 3. Investigate your LTC insurance carrier

When you look at the various LTC insurance carriers, consider their relative financial strengths and stability, in addition to their years of experience in the long-term care insurance market. S&P (Standard and Poor's), Moody's, Fitch Ratings and A.M. Best rate most long-term care insurance carriers.

## Sources

1. 2003 LTC Insurance and Medicare Supplement Sales and In Force Survey, LIMRA International
2. "The Economic Value of Informal Caregiving," Arno, P.S., Levine, C., and Memmott, M. M. Health Affairs, Vol. 18, No. 2, 1999.
3. Long Term Care Insurance in 1998-1999, Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA), 2002.
4. Metlife Mature Market Study, 2003.

Long-term care insurance is marketed through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' wholly owned subsidiary insurance brokerage company. Thrivent Financial representatives are licensed insurance agents.

Melanie Meyer  
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Thrivent Financial for Lutheran

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*This column was prepared by Thrivent Financial for use by this representative.*

# It's A Matter of Perspective

By Robin Hyland



As I mentioned in my last newsletter article, I am definitely a new creation in Christ. My priorities have totally shifted, my activities revolve around the church, my brain is like a sponge ready to soak up all this new and exciting information about Jesus, God, the Bible...I am on fire! But this spring's Missionary Training, which prompted us all to develop a concise, effective faith story that we can share at a moment's notice, got me thinking: besides all this church-y stuff, how had I really changed?

I have to be honest; on the outside you might not notice any difference at all. I was always generally happy, positive, generous, and patient (on the outside, anyway). I was not addicted to anything. I had a great family. No real problems. I wasn't really "lost", as the hymn goes. In fact, you might have thought I was already a Christian; I had all the right attitudes and attributes.

There was one thing I lacked: perspective. Eternal perspective.

I notice, since becoming a Christian, that when I get in to discussions about politics, suffering, life and death situations...in fact just about any subject, I consider it through the lens of the entire sweep of human history. I find myself harkening back to Adam and Eve when discussing current human suffering: I see so much pain that can be attributed to that first mistake they made when they decided to put themselves in the center of their lives, knocked God down to second fiddle, and ushered in a world of sin. I now have mixed feelings about people losing loved ones: I pray the loved one knows Jesus, I see it as a loss for the ones still living, but I don't look at death as final. And though I may not be consid-

ered very "politically correct", I can't look at changes in the society that have occurred in the last 50 years or so as meaning that man is evolving to some new level where, let's just say, the "nuclear family" has lost its significance. I see everything in a Biblical context.

Unfortunately, my faith story is not as demonstrative as, say, a recovering drug addict's, or a miraculously healed cancer patient's story would be. It does, however, produce an enormous sense of peace and "blessed assurance" in me. But, how can I convey that?

I was told that one of the participants in Missionary Training gained a new perspective, along with a keen sense of urgency, when she had a dream that her sister was dying and as she was slipping away the sister pleaded with her "why didn't you tell me?".

We have the key. We know the only safe way out. Don't you think we are obliged to share that Truth?

So, it is my challenge to articulate the internal "eternal perspective" I can now enjoy. I suppose I could easily go about my business, reveling in my own personal recognition of everything in its "Biblical context", noticing how accurately Scripture matches up with reality, skipping along in my own spiritually aware bubble. But, I know I cannot do that. I don't want to be faced with a loved one on their deathbed looking into my eyes and saying "why didn't you tell me?".

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*

Matthew 28: 19

# Sunday Adult Bible Study

Our Sunday Bible study for August and September looks at lessons describing how God brought His chosen nation, Israel, out of slavery in Egypt. To do this, God called Moses to provide leadership, first in dealing with Egypt's Pharaoh, and then in Israel's escape by crossing of the Red Sea - on dry ground. The lessons that follow trace Israel's struggles over the ensuing 40 years of wandering on the desert. During this period God kept the nation of Israel intact under Moses, ultimately reaching the Jordan River on the edge of the Promised Land.

These lessons provide the themes that shape our understanding of the character of God - and His people Israel. We'll come to view the God's Law given to Israel not in the sense of an oppressive system of Commandments required to earn God's love, but rather as a gift of identity in dealing with our human weaknesses and tendencies.

Plan to join us. We meet each Sunday in Rooms 12/13 in the Education Center, the building at the far end of the parking lot. Coffee is served, and all are welcome as we pray and learn - together.



## Blood Drive

Blood Donors: Our next blood drive at CLC will be Sept. 11, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You may sign up but walk-ins are welcome.

# Hands and Hearts

The Middle East is certainly shaking and moving with a storm of activity.

Through the pull-outs, re-deployments and re-locating Hands and Hearts has stayed in touch with each and every one of its 50-plus soldiers who receive monthly care packages from us. It hasn't been easy, but we know where all our men and women in uniform are and we are praying every day that they will come home safely. When they return some of our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors or Airmen seek us out to thank us for our faithful giving month after month. The feeling warms our hearts and will keep us going every month until all our soldiers are home safe and sound.

People often ask what the troops need. Our soldiers cherish the prayers we offer, the warm wishes we send but they also love the letters, snacks and any source of entertainment we can provide.

Most of the soldiers live in tent-like housing and eat in a mess hall (think of the M\*A\*S\*H series.) When they are not on duty, these young men and women enjoy reading books, magazines, watching movies and doing puzzles. These are the "little things" which help to remind them of home when they are so far away. Please think of our troops when you go shopping this week.

For August we are asking especially for donations of canned tuna. Tuna is high in protein and it is well received by the troops. It is important for our fighting men and women to eat foods that contain lots of protein to keep up their strength and stamina. We would like to include at least three cans of tuna in each Care Package we send this month. That means we need at least 150 cans of tuna! Can you help?

This month's packing will begin in the Fellowship Center on Tuesday, August 18th from 7 to 8 p.m. We will meet again on Wednesday, August 19th from 9 to 11 a.m. to complete the shipment. We welcome children, teens and adults; there are things for everyone to do.

If you would like to be a part of Hands and Hearts' ministry to the troops but cannot attend a packing party, please let us know. Each of our soldiers has a prayer partner, someone who is committed to praying for "their" soldier every day throughout his or her deployment. Perhaps you would be willing to commit to this prayer ministry. We also need hand-written letters, drawings from children and we often need help with various seasonal craft and sewing projects.

For more information on what you can do or for any questions you may have about Hands and Hearts, please contact Karolle Blackson at 255-3222 or [hands\\_n\\_hearts@yahoo.com](mailto:hands_n_hearts@yahoo.com).

# Thank You!

In the past year we have reached out and helped many organizations. In almost all cases, we receive a thank you note or card from the recipient.

Since it is your generous donations of items and time that make these outreach programs possible I thought that I would share with you some quotes from these cards.

"Our playground looks terrific thanks to your volunteers!  
Castaic Elementary PTA/Make A Difference Day

"Thank you so much for your donation of gift bags filled with girly things. It is most appreciated."  
DaAnne Smith, Single Mothers Outreach/service project for women's retreat

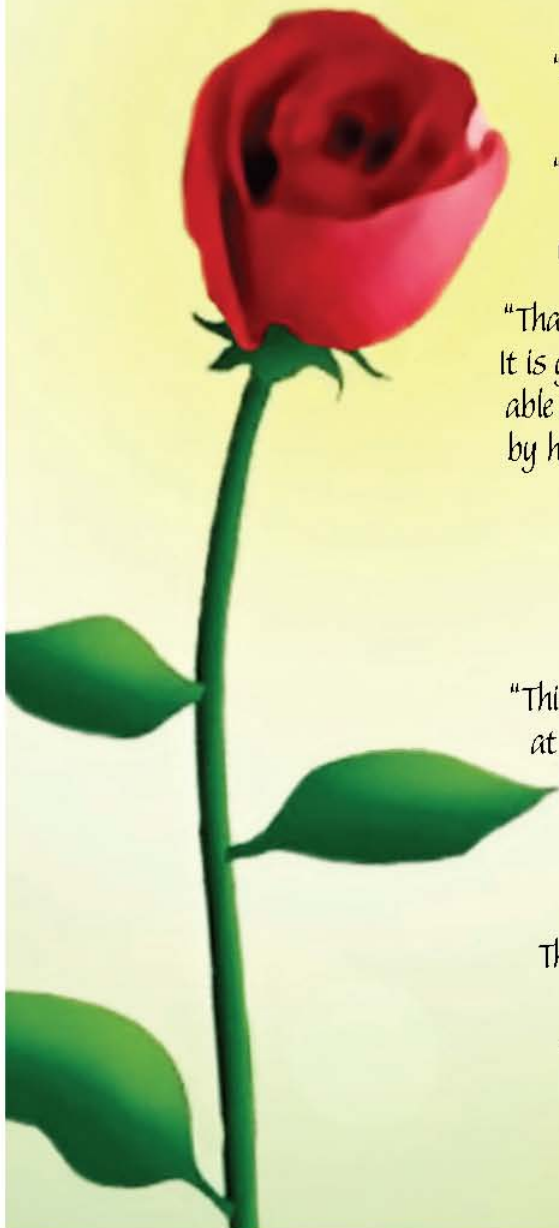
"Thank you so much for the donation of food to our food pantry. It is greatly needed at this time. Your contribution allows us to be able to provide services and make a difference in our community by helping people from being receivers to becoming contributors."  
Jan Maseda, Lutheran Social Services/various food drives

"Thanks for your support.  
**HALF OF OUR CLIENTS ARE CHILDREN.**"  
SCV Food Pantry/various food drives

"This is just a small note of thanks for the fabulous job you did at Saugus Speedway. Every one rolled up sleeves and helped make the show the overall success that it was!"  
Terri Burbank, Saugus Speedway/Oldies and Goodies Classic Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show

"Thank you for your kind and thoughtful donation. The guests of the shelter appreciate the resources contributed."  
Tim Davis, on behalf of SCV Emergency Winter Shelter/Comedy Night

"Thank you for your considerate donation of 31 baskets of classroom supplies."  
Michael Clear, Newhall School District/Community Blessings



*"Thank you so much for designating our organization as a recipient of your 'Christmas in July' campaign. Your support is what makes our good work in the community possible."*

*Jay Weiner, The Gentle Barn Foundation/Christmas in July*

*"I'm writing to express our most profound appreciation for your recent donation (once again). Your donation will help us make ends meet for the more than 8,000 senior citizens we serve each and every year."*

*Brad Berens, on behalf of SCV Senior Center/Giving Garland*

*"Thanks to your generosity, over 30 families were able to receive a warm delicious meal and fellowship with each other. Please kindly accept our heart felt Thank you. Our families were truly thankful and were at a lack of words to describe their emotions towards your church."*

*Susana Glasgow, Hope Gardens Family Center/Thanksgiving*

*"I would like to thank all of you for your very generous gift donations. We were all very touched by the amount of thought and love that went into each and every gift. It's difficult to find the words to truly convey to all of you how much we and the children appreciate your generosity."*

*Lisa Fink, Department of Children and Family Services/Giving Garland*

*"Your crew was awesome and I was truly blessed by all of them and their hard work."*

*Scott Johnson, Hope Gardens Family Center/Compassion Weekend*

*"I just wanted to write you a quick note and thank you again for what an amazing job everyone did volunteering. Everyone was courteous and friendly, did whatever was asked of them, worked tirelessly and without complaint and got a LOT done for us and the doggies. I wish you guys would come up every week!"*

*George Cox, New Leash on Life/Compassion Weekend*

*"I just returned to the office today and saw some of the baskets that you brought. They are fantastic!! A number of them have already been distributed.*

*Thank you so much for all your efforts!!!"*

*Ruth Devine, L.A. Family Housing/Compassion Weekend*

*This is only a portion of what has been received. Thank you for your donations and contributions. It is your generosity that enables us to reach out to others.*

*Many Blessings,  
Debbie Price/Missions Coordinator*

***Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.***

*- Colossians 3:12*

# Children's Ministries

## Sunday School—Registration Time is Coming!

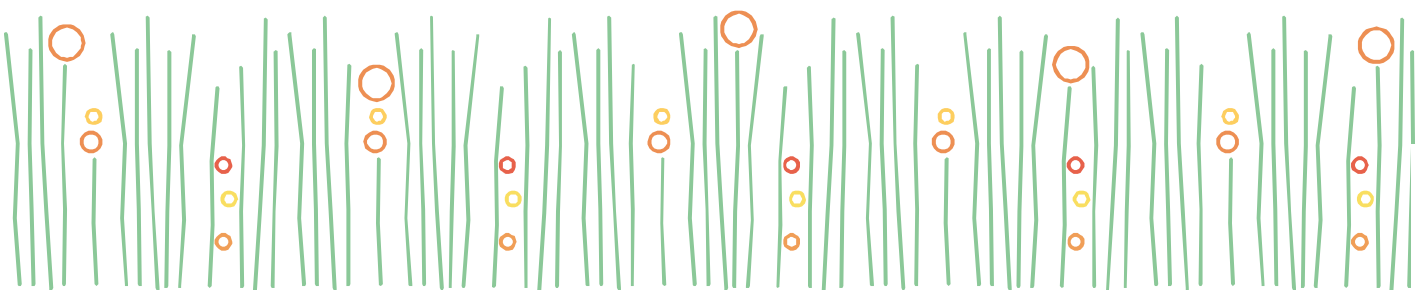
It is time for Sunday school again on August 30. We offer SS for children ages 2 – high school at 9:30 and for ages 3 – 3rd grade at 11. Registration for Sunday school will begin August 2. Please find the table out on the patio between services and make sure you are registered for SS. Calendars and maps will be available also for room location. We are still in need of team teachers for 11:00am. Please prayerfully consider teaching this year. It is a wonderful learning experience. We will be using Growing in Christ Curriculum this year. If you have any questions about Sunday school, please contact Kathleen Kahovec at [Kathleenc@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:Kathleenc@sbcbglobal.net) or 259-0200.

## KOK (Kids of the Kingdom)

KOK is on break for the summer. This is our midweek program for children ages 3 – 3rd grade. We have a wonderful time with games, lesson, snack, craft, and lots of playing. Everyone will meet from 6 – 7. Sign ups for KOK will be out on the patio between services starting August 2. KOK will start up again September 9.

## Youth Adventures

Youth Adventures is also on break for the summer. This is our midweek program for kids age 4th - 6th grade. We meet in the Youth Center for lesson and games and small group time. Newcomers are always welcome and bring a friend! Linda Ferguson can answer any questions you have about Youth Adventures at 296-0263. YA will start up again September 9.



pre — Rally Sunday on Saturday, August 29, 9 – 12noon.

Everyone is invited to come and get the church ready for Sunday school.

Please help us get things ready for the fall.

# Children's Ministries

## Junior High

### **August 21 there will be a sleepover in the Youth Center**

All Jr. high students are invited to spend the night and play games and have great fellowship time together. Arrive at 6pm. \$10 for food and pick up time is Saturday morning by 9am.

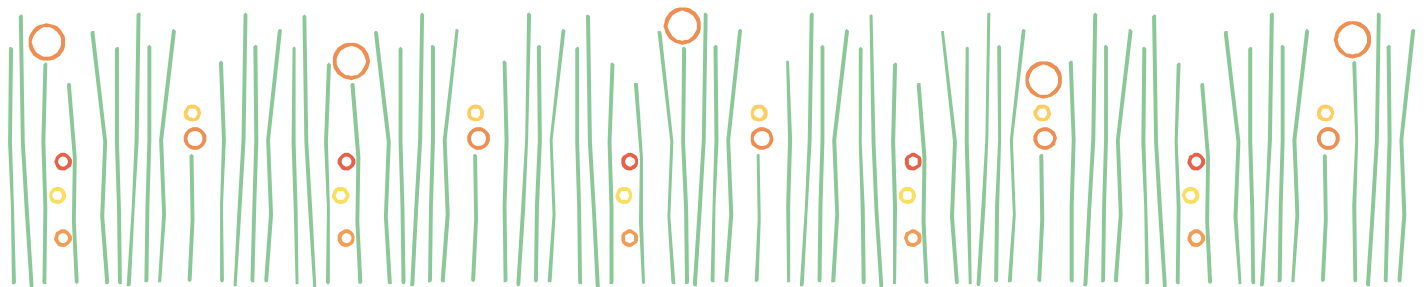
### **September 2 Parent/Student Confirmation Meeting 7pm**

Confirmation resumes Wednesday, September 9, 7-8:30pm in the Youth Center.

**The 7th grade community retreat is coming up October 2-4. Please mark your calendar and look for the information in the mail soon.**

## 9th Graders

We have two times to meet in the fall before Confirmation Sunday which will be October 25 at the 11am service. We will meet after third service on October 11. It will be an hour long meeting to discuss the 5 promises made during Confirmation. There is a mandatory meeting with Pastor Joe the Tuesday before Confirmation on October 20 at 6pm in the sanctuary. You will receive your robes at that time. Be thinking of your confirmation verse and give it to Kathleen over the summer along with your full name, birth date and weight and height.



Come and help get ready for Sunday school by cleaning the church campus

All the rooms need a good dusting, sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, window washing etc.

# Children's Ministries

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL RECAP



The Dock rocked at VBS this year! In looking back, we can be reassured this was an incredibly fun time as well as a successful ministry. Throughout the campus, we heard kids shouting "Fear Not" as they learned to trust God, who loves, protects, and is always with us! We set our eyes on "God Sightings", and listened to kids share how they felt God's presence. From teacher to child, from volunteer to parent, from teen to teen, there were moments of great teaching, extreme fun, heartfelt compassion, and abundant joy for the Lord.

In summary, Week One saw 348 kids and 199 volunteers, equaling 207 families total. We welcomed back 165 families from VBS 2008, and met 105 families who were not here in 2008. 35% of the kids that were there Week One were from CLC, while 21% claimed no church affiliation prior to VBS.

Week Two saw 343 kids and 166 volunteers, equaling 272 families total. Notice, we had just as many kids, with far fewer volunteers and a lot more families on campus, than in Week One. While we anticipated that we'd have fewer volunteers, as the days went on more and more volunteers showed up to help - several whom were teen volunteers from Week One. We welcomed back 154 families from VBS 2008, and met 118 families who were not here in 2008. During Week Two, 35% of the kids were from CLC, while 26% of the kids claimed no church affiliation prior to VBS.



# Children's Ministries



During VBS, our hearts turned to our College Mission Team, who, during Week One of VBS, was serving at Camp Biloxi in Mississippi. Camp Biloxi is a ministry committed to connecting mercy with community through rebuilding homes, encouraging the broken-hearted and despaired, and training volunteer workers for the mission fields on the Mississippi Gulf Coast hit by Hurricane Katrina. This mission became our VBS service project as well. "Donation Dock" was set



up in the Narthex, where we collected \$500 in cash and gift cards, which will be used to purchase construction supplies. And, we received over 300 lbs of items that will welcome families into their new homes and will support the work crews at Camp Biloxi. Be sure to visit our web site: [www.come2christ.com](http://www.come2christ.com) and check out the photo galleries and videos!

Jen Franco  
VBS Director

# Youth Space

## WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION



I want to bring you all up to date with what I did with my June, since I was in the office for about 20 minutes. The San Francisco Mission trip was incredible. We had twenty four students and five adults on the trip. Split into three groups, each team went to a different work site for the day.

There are too many different places to talk about, but let me lift up a few different ones that really made an impression on me. We were working in various parts of SF and poorest of all of SF is the Tenderloin District. The population density here is amazing. Many people live in what are known as Single Room Occupancies (SRO). These are effectively dorm rooms with shared bathrooms and no kitchens. Because these spaces are so small, people congregate on the sidewalks outside the building

and these spaces become the living room of the city, a very crowded, drug and crime infested living room.

Each team spent some time working with Project Open Hand. They deliver food to the homebound in the area, usually people with advanced HIV/AIDS. It is an amazing operation working in the poorest part of the city. We walked through a lot of poor neighborhoods and through knots of people just hanging out on the street because they had nowhere else to go. As we walked through one cluster of people, I heard one woman who was standing there say, 'Hey, there! Doing good work' when she recognized the meal carriers we were toting around. It was jarring to go from our nice, clean, sterile Santa Clarita to this whole different world where people are sitting on the sidewalk drinking cheap booze out of paper cups.



# Youth Space

The other place that sticks out in my memory is the San Francisco Rescue Mission. It is a Christian organization that runs a kitchen, thrift store and church in the Tenderloin. Here is a group of people not just working to feed bodies, but to save souls. They live and work in the roughest of streets and every day, they give away food and teach about Jesus. It was one of the most exhausting days that we had because of the hard work we were doing, but it was also one of the coolest for me. I've never been in a situation quite like that.

The next week I was at Camp Biloxi. There is still ongoing work in Biloxi to clean up from Katrina and we were working through a relief organization run by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We had a group of a dozen adults there and we were primarily working on fixing a shed for a woman who had a number of medical issues. We also did a bunch of brick work building a walkway.

Biloxi is really curious in that they have really tried to put Katrina behind them, but there are still pockets of destruction and people who are still having trouble. The relief organizations are still there and still working hard, despite most of America having moved on.

As much as I enjoy doing Mission trips abroad, it was really different to doing trips like these where we can interact with the people and know that this is our country. SF is just a six hour drive from here and the living situation for people is deplorable. It is a lot tougher to write off the poverty there. We can't just think of it as a third world country. These are people who pledge allegiance to the same flag, speak the same language and live under the same laws as we do. I'll always remember sitting in the park and God breaking my heart for the people around me living in these conditions.

- Pastor Mike

## ***YOUTH CALENDAR***

### **Upcoming Dates:**

August 11, 7:00 PM Worship night

August 18, 7:00 PM Impact Kicks Off

August 23, 7:00 PM Youth Ministry Roundtable – Come find out what is new this year

August 30, Mission Sunday, All Three Services

September 6, 9:30 AM High School Sunday Morning Bible Study Starts

September 12, 8:00 – 11:00 AM River Rally

October 24, Santa Clarita Make a Difference Day



## Preschool News for August

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### Summer Fun At Christ Lutheran Preschool

This is another fun summer over at the preschool. Every day our calendar offers a different theme for the children to enjoy. With our “shoes are optional” beginnings, the day is filled with fun choices such as: playing in the sand box with misters and troughs of water cooling us in the summer heat, the water table area offering old fashion wash boards and clothes lines to hang your pretend laundry, to hula hoops in the grass area. Some of our theme days are making honey butter for our corn muffins, playing in the sprinklers, insects and camping and big bins with stuff to explore. Even with it being summer the children are still learning, exploring and having the time of their lives.

Soon we will be getting ready for the new school year.....my how time flies. Enjoy your summer!

Chris Porrazzo, Preschool Director



# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

## 1st

Miles Gause  
Bruce Hoyme  
Ryan Pask  
Tawni Tucker

## 2nd

Baylee Kaulbach  
Natalie Krantz  
Alexandra Rice  
Christopher Salo

## 3rd

David Berrey  
Tiffany Earnhardt  
Brett Erickson  
Kelly Leavins  
Ardis Natterstad  
Mike Pin  
Will Tate  
Katie Vogel

## 4th

Lola Dyroy  
Debbie Gardner  
Micah McGaunaughy

## 5th

Evan Ballard  
Suzanne Kloth  
Jacob Shalkevich  
Ryan Shalkevich  
Cameron Stonefield  
Dalton Ullman  
Jackie Wims

## 6th

Brianna Anderson  
Matthew Berrey  
Renee Cheatham  
Tamara Dowling  
Amy Jones  
Blake Kirshner  
Noah Pandya

## 7th

Logan Bates  
Aimee Newton  
Cheryl Olsen

## 8th

Jill Abejon  
Annabel Brinkley  
Gerald Hugger  
Jenna Miller

## 9th

Jackie Costanzo  
Joseph Cubas Jr.  
Jill Grider  
Robert Path  
Mimi Tate

## 10th

Luke Huey  
Natalie Schreiner  
Samantha Speigel

## 11th

Helen Barlow  
Emily Brown  
Clare Csernay  
Sarah Ganderup  
Ralph Meschkat  
Gregg Strenk

## 12th

Kyle Boyd  
Ashley Cossio  
Johnathan D'Aguiar  
Ivy Guasp  
Jerry Halme  
Matthew Miller

## 13th

Connor Chassman  
Allison Long  
Dustin Rawls  
Gene Weber

## 14th

Sam Campeau  
Michelle Gilbertson  
Patricia Handy  
Thomas Kloth  
Doug McEwen  
Lori Pin

## 15th

Janice Brown  
Fiona Delger  
Don Jepsen  
Jacob Miller  
Kathy Slemp

## 16th

Judy Dow  
Sean Maxwell  
Lief Nicolaisen  
Amanda Patton  
Kimberly Sielke  
Michael Vairo  
Garrett Wedel

## 17th

Linda Ferguson  
Taylor Nelson  
Morgan Stonefield

## 18th

Jo Anne Koch  
Paul Ludden  
Angela Muhl  
Ben Mutz  
Abe Nungesser  
Kara Shreckengast  
Ryan Solano  
Ashley Stevens

## 19th

Steve Gilbertson  
Laney Grider  
Charles Johnston  
Emma Petersen

## 20th

Jake Demuth  
Kim Fernandez  
Margaux Scott

## 21st

Jacob Martin

## 22nd

Tom Catalano  
Nathan Conell  
George Lara Jr.  
Joey Mutz

## 23rd

Samuel Scharnweber

## 24th

Cody Delacruz  
Kim Dudeck  
Michael Keithley  
Mary Smith

## 25th

Phillip Brown  
Alex Cossio  
Lindsey Theberge

## 26th

Ron Frezieres  
Brian Kebschull  
Coleby Kies  
Mackenzie Kies  
Mia Menzano  
Parker Rice  
Abby Stewart  
Vallie Walline

## 27th

Lorenzo Obligacion  
Mary Stob  
Dave Widdison

## 28th

Brendan Ambrose  
Brayden Smith  
Mark Town

## 29th

Tom Cole  
Michael Fernandez  
Sydney Herbert  
Connor Reyes

## 30th

Neal Bakke  
Jasmine Bett  
Bonita Brown  
Suzanne Francis  
Heather Sielke  
Moriah Tenney  
Jessica Vogel

## 31st

Nicholas Diaz  
Will Goldstein  
Jonathan Hart  
Matt Lincoln  
Cheyanne Rodriguez



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## On Line Giving Now Available Through CLC Website

A new service has been added to the CLC website allowing online contributions through Simply Giving.

Simply Giving, a program endorsed by Thrivent Financial Bank, has been available at CLC since 2002. And now it's interactive! Now you can visit [www.come2christ.com](http://www.come2christ.com), select online contributions from the left menu and make donations online.

What can you do on the donation web page?

1. Make a one-time donation by withdrawal from your bank account
2. Make a one-time donation with a charge to your credit card
3. Set up a recurring contribution, either from your bank account or your credit card
4. Make changes to your recurring contributions
5. View the history of your giving through Simply Giving

If you have any questions about Simply Giving, our new web page, or anything else having to do with contributions, please contact Teri Gaudioso, at [teri@come2christ.com](mailto:teri@come2christ.com) or 259-0200 ext. 27.

We hope you'll find this new service helpful.

**Attention Shoppers!** Sign up for escrip or Ralph's community Contribution Program and every time you shop, your grocery store will make a contribution to CLC at no cost to you. If you shop at Ralph's, go to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com). Christ Lutheran Church's account number is: 82660. If you shop at von's Pavilions, Bristol Farms or Tresieras, sign up at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). You'll notice there are several Christ Lutheran Churches. We sure hope you'll pick the Valencia one (Group ID # 153435184).