

Christ Lutheran Church Connected

January 2011

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

Edith Lovejoy Pierce



Thoughts from Pastor Joe

By Pastor Joe Campeau

Stories are powerful things. A good story pulls us in, engages our mind and emotions, makes us a part of its world. A good novel can be hard to put down. Go to a movie and if it's a good story chances are you will leave the theatre laughing or crying or pondering, perhaps for days. That's what a good story can do. I've been doing this preaching thing now for 27 years. Know what I've discovered in that time? People remember the stories. They may not remember the fine theological work I did in the sermon, or the sharp Biblical insights, but they remember the story. Sometimes years later. At worship this past Thanksgiving Day someone asked me if the turkey danced at my house this year. I looked it up; that was a story that I told in a Thanksgiving sermon ten years ago. Someone else asked me the other day about how it went this year putting up the lights on my Christmas tree. That was because in 2002 I told a story about how my dad hated having to untangle Christmas tree lights each year so he usually spent a long time getting them put away just right. But one year after Christmas, when he knew he was dying, he decided to just throw them in a box because someone else would



have to untangle them the next year. But he lived the whole year through and found himself untangling his lights the following Christmas. Such is the power of stories.

The master story-teller was none other than Jesus himself. His stories are called *parables* and they have been remembered and retold for 2000 years. They are often simple stories about rebellious sons and heartbroken fathers, of poor widows and cantankerous servants, of wandering sheep and unjust judges. Jesus' stories tell us something about His Father, about the Kingdom that Jesus came to usher in, and about our own life. We see ourselves in his story, and seeing ourselves we come to understand his message and our life better.

That's why I am excited that beginning January 9 Pastor Mike and I will be doing a message series we're calling *Life Stories*. Each Sunday we'll

Contact Us:

Pastor Joe Campeau - Sr. Pastor
pastorjoe@come2christ.com

Pastor Mike Matzek - Assoc. Pastor
pastormike@come2christ.com

Kristin Frederick - Worship Coordinator
kristin@come2christ.com

Roger Greene - Organist
roger@come2christ.com

Kathleen Kahovec - Youth & Children
kathleen@come2christ.com

Teri Gaudio - Business Administrator
teri@come2christ.com

Linda Bonar - Office Manager
linda@come2christ.com

Debbie Price - Missions & Outreach
debbie@come2christ.com

Robin Hyland - Connecting in Christ
robin@come2christ.com

Judy Barnes - Multi-Media
judyd@come2christ.com

Paul Ludden - Chancel Choir Director

Cathy McNulty - Sonbeams Choir
Robin Hyland - Rejoicing Voices Choir
Elizabeth Abrahamson - Sound & Spirit Choir

Thoughts from Pastor Joe, continued

walk through one or more of Jesus' stories. Then, during the week, a series of *Life Groups* will be meeting to discuss and apply those stories. Let me get right to it: I would like to see everyone in the congregation join a *Life Group* during this series. The series will last only 9 weeks so it is not a lifelong commitment. But, as I have said time and again, it is crucial that we as a congregation, and each of us as individuals, get into the Bible in a real way. If you are not now in a Bible study, this is your chance to try it out, to join a *Life Group*. I guarantee there will be one available to meet your schedule. You only need to decide that Bible study is worth your time. Each *Life Group* will offer participants an opportunity to get to know and build relationships with other people, study and discuss Jesus' stories, and hear the stories of others. Be a part.

See you in the story.

LIFT, a new worship opportunity is coming in January 2011.

Tuesday nights at 7:30 in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited!

In Psalm 22:3, God tells us that He inhabits the praises of His people.

When we praise Him, lifting up His name with open and expectant hearts,
God's presence draws close and...

His Word becomes vivid and more understandable.
It is easier to forgive and serve people.
Priorities settle into the right place.
Bondage is broken.
Fear is washed away.

That's why you feel good after Sunday service!
God is sharing Himself with you; responding to your praise.

Now, the King of Life is calling us to seek His face
mid-week! He wants to share more of Himself with us!

So come and LIFT!



For info email Ryan Metlen: metlenkids@sbcglobal.net

Connected in Christ

Coming in 2011:

There are many exciting new things coming soon for our congregation. Here is just a sample of what's in store:

New sermon series on the parables of Jesus. Listen, as His followers did, to allegorical stories that tell of the nature of God and His love for us. The parables of Jesus reveal truths in a deep and meaningful way.

“Parables of Jesus” Small Groups Delve deeper and join a short-term small group to discuss the prior Sunday's sermon.

“Meet Me @ the Bistro”! Be on the lookout for Meet Me @ the Bistro fellowship opportunities! Tables will be set aside for people who want to gauge the interest in any particular ministry. Think a young couple group would be great, want to create a network of Christian business people, feel the need for a support group for parents of special needs children? Book a Meet Me @ the Bistro table. We will help you promote your idea to people who might benefit from such a ministry, get the word out, and provide support. Contact Robin Hyland: robin@come2christ.com or 259-0200.

Lift Sundays sometime seem way too far apart for some of us! Lift is a simple mid-week acoustic praise and worship service we are going to start on Tuesday, January 4th. It will give us all an opportunity to turn our hearts to God, give Him the glory, and refresh ourselves through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We lift Him up, He lifts us in return. Tuesday nights, 7:30, CLC Sanctuary. All are invited. For information, contact Ryan Metlen: metlenkids@sbcglobal.net



Missions and Outreach

By Debbie Price
Missions and Outreach Coordinator

Beginning a New Year, but not forgetting the old.

I can't believe how fast the time goes by. It really is true what they say about time going faster as you get older! Usually by the time the New Year rolls around, I am ready to be done with the old one. But as I have gotten older, I have learned to appreciate all the events and things, good and bad that have happen in my life as they all play a part in shaping me into the person that I am. As we begin the New Year with new resolutions, new hopes, and new dreams I'd like to reflect on the previous year a little longer.

Although the experts say that the economy is getting better, my pocket book certainly has not reflected that. In fact, I have seen the need in our community and world growing. The lines at the local food pantries are longer with the shelves being harder and harder to keep stocked, there are a record number of beds for the homeless at the Emergency Winter Shelter and Newhall Bicycle Shop served more than double the amount of people at their Thanksgiving Meal this year than last. However, through all these hard times, it never ceases to amaze me how God works through our congregation. Every time I plan an outreach project or event I worry about the response that will be received and every time I am amazed and thankful for how you all step up to the plate and go above and beyond the expectations that I set. I truly feel blessed to be a part of this church family and to have all of you walking beside me in my journey. Whether I know you personally or by name, your participation and support in our outreach ministries allow me the opportunity to see the wonder and glory that God brings each and every day. Thank you for your support and willingness to open your hearts to be the hands and feet of God. It is because of you and your love for our Lord that our outreach ministry was so successful this past year.

I do look forward to the New Year, but I am also grateful for the old.

Many Blessings

Debbie

Boxes of Love Update

The truck was over flowing. We collected 176 Boxes that were distributed to Lutheran Social Services in Van Nuys and Santa Clarita, our local Food Pantry, People Helping People, SCV Senior Center, SCV Community Center and designated families that were in need. We also collected donations to cover an additional 20 boxes which brings our grand total to 196 boxes. All recipients were thankful and pleased at the organization of the boxes. Thank you for your support.



Outreach Opportunities

Starbucks Harvest Program – Starbucks has agreed to donate their day old products to help others that are in need. Our team picks up these products on Monday and Thursday evenings and delivers them to organizations that will distribute them to those in the community.

Help The Children – We are looking to put together a team to serve at Help the Children one Saturday each quarter. We would be sorting and packing food that will then be distributed to those in need.

Hope Gardens – Hope Gardens is a facility that helps take homeless women and children off the streets. There are a variety of opportunities available and times are flexible.

Compassion Weekend – Believe it or not we are already starting to plan for Compassion Weekend. We are looking for team leaders as well as organizations to reach out to.

If you are interested in becoming a part of any of these teams or would like additional information, please contact Debbie Price at: debbie@come2christ.com.

From Pastor Mike

Life Groups are Starting!

Don't forget the new series about the words of Jesus starting the week of January 9th. For nine weeks, until Ash Wednesday, we want everybody to get in a small group Bible study. The whole idea is that we get *everybody* talking together about what Jesus said. There are a whole slew of groups meeting at different times and places. Some are for guys, some are for gals, some are for couples and some are just for whoever God calls to that group. We want you to join a group!

I know what you are thinking. You're thinking "*I am so excited about this Life Group thing! I can't wait to get together and talk about God's word.*" That is wonderful. I can't wait to hear how your experience is. I hope it is everything that it can be.

But maybe you are thinking, "*Here they go pestering me to join a Life Group again. It's not worth it. I don't know the Bible, I don't have time, I'm comfortable as I am and I just don't want to.*" Well, those are all excuses that have floated around before. Let's take a look at them.

- 1) ***I just don't see the value. This is a big reason that people don't get involved. We look around and say, 'I enjoy Sunday mornings, but why should I spend another hour a week at Bible Study?'*** Think of this nine week series as a free sample. You know how it is with free samples? You try it to see if you like it. We aren't asking you to sign up for a group until Jesus comes back, just for nine weeks. You can try anything for nine weeks.
- 2) ***I don't know the bible.*** That is why we join Life Groups. So we can study and learn together.
- 3) ***I just don't have time.*** Everybody is busy, but we all make time for the important stuff. This is one hour a week for nine weeks. That's less time than a weekly fix of Dancing with the Stars or Ice Road Truckers.
- 4) ***I'm comfortable in my anonymity.*** This is a great chance for you to step out and get to know people. One of the biggest issues people have in our society is how we are separated from those around us. We want this congregation to be a community where people know and care about one another. Don't be just another face in the crowd.
- 5) ***I just don't want to. Are you sure? All the cool kids are doing it.***

We are still having sign ups on the patio on January 2nd and 9th. And if you don't get a chance to sign up then, don't hesitate to give me a call (259-0200 x25) or an email (PastorMike@Come2Christ.com) and I'll get you hooked up.





Council Corner

By Kisha Tate
Council Member

Winter in California, you have to love it! I look out my windows at Bill Tate's citrus grove. Well 5 trees is a start. They are loaded with fruit. Lemons, limes, oranges and tangerines. This is very exciting for a woman raised in the cotton fields of west Texas. This fall I did a study on the fruit of the spirit written by Beth Moore. What an encouragement and challenge for me! I want the fruit.

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

I am so blessed to be a part of a strong body of believers here at CLC. We have so many opportunities to serve and grow. I have learned by having a firm foundation with deep roots, I will grow as a follower of Christ and be fruitful. So as I look ahead to 2011 I will try to keep the balance. I must continue to learn God's word, by deliberate study and prayer. Only then can I reach out and serve in love and joy!

Our annual meeting will be held January 30th following the 11:00 service. We will approve new council members and the 2011 budget. We will also hold a special congregational meeting February 13 following the 11:00 service. This meeting is the final process in the resolution to leave the ELCA. I hope you will make these meetings a priority.

Church Council: Karen Nelson (president), Dave Burnett, Andy Dyroy, Hilde Ernsberger, Mike McGeever, Kevin Franson and Kisha Tate

Congregational Meeting January 30

Christ Lutheran Church will gather for its annual congregational meeting immediately following the 11:00 service (about 12:15) on January 30. Items on the agenda will include: reviewing staff and ministry reports, acting on a budget for 2011, calling new members to the Church Council, and electing Mission Endowment team and Nominating Team members.

Hands and Hearts

I'd like you to meet Sarah and Jeff who have been married for over 10 years now. They are the proud parents of three of the most beautiful children, ages 5, 7 and 9. Sarah and the kids live on post at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky while Jeff serves half a world away in Afghanistan.



Jeff sent a photo of his temporary "home away from home" which he decorated with the Christmas decorations we sent to him in late November. This month he will be moving into a tent, but until now he shares a room with actual walls, a ceiling and a real door.

Sarah says, *"We are an Army family and proud of it! I have a small photography business, LOVE music, and enjoy volunteering at our kids' school. We have been so blessed! God is good; all the time!"*

Casey is single but plans a future with a young woman he met while serving in Germany. Today he is still serving in the Air Force, deployed to Afghanistan. He has a direct and in-your-face manner but beneath the tough exterior, he is a caring and compassionate gentleman.

He asked if we might send Brady a little TLC; a comrade who was getting no mail from home. It was hard to tell who was more excited to get the next packages; it's just good to know we were able to put smiles on their faces and Christmas in their hearts.

The Airmen disassembled their garland and fashioned it into a crude Christmas tree, decorating it with lights and ornaments that were included in their boxes. In a MacGyver-like solution to compensate for the lack of a "tree" top, they placed a cammo



stocking at the peak. The Christmas wrapping paper we sent became presents when wrapped around discarded blocks of wood. Nearby a stand was fashioned in order to hang their matching cammo stockings.

Bryan is an Army Sergeant whose repeated deployments proved to be too much for his marriage.

Sadly, there are many soldiers who face being single parents and that means lots of children in broken homes. In Bryan's case, he is the father of a precious young soon-to-be-a-teen-aged daughter who he misses terribly.

Bryan and his roommate, Jonathan, chose to use the bulk of their decorations to spruce up their living quarters. Because space is an issue, they hung everything on their door. Each time they walk through that door they are reminded that we cared enough to share the joy of the Christmas season with them.



How fortunate we are to have these brave soldiers who serve and sacrifice on our behalf. We are grateful to their families who also serve - though silently - while waiting for them to return home.

As you celebrate the New Year, please remember these soldiers and all members of our Armed Forces currently serving in harm's way. We invite you to join us in sending Care Packages to Jeff, Casey and Bryan as well as 47 other soldiers who are deployed in Iraq

Hands and Hearts, *continued*

and Afghanistan. We will meet on Tuesday, January 18th from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Center to begin packing. We will finish up on Wednesday, the 19th from 9 until 11 a.m. For more info contact Karolle at hands_n_hearts@yahoo.com or 255-3222. All are welcome.

New Sermon Series

The Parables of Jesus

Beginning Sunday, January 9th, we will be starting a new sermon series called "Life Stories" based on the parables that Jesus used to teach his followers. Listen as they did, to the allegorical stories that tell of the nature of God and His love for us. The parables of Jesus reveal truths in a deep and meaningful way.



A New Year's Prayer

Dear Lord

Dear Lord, as I close the door on this old year,
I ponder on the things I've done...
on the things I've said and the joys I've had...
then I wonder, have I lost or won?

I've thought of the new friends I have made,
and of the old ones staunch and true...
the path of the old year was made easier Lord,
because I have walked it with You.

I think of all the many times,
when my burdens were so heavy to bear,
and how my faith slipped away from me...
but somehow You were always standing there.

Now as I open the door to this New Year,
and carefully peep inside,
I wonder what it holds for me...
but I'll throw the door open wide

And whatever it brings to me and mine,
I'll meet it with a heart so true...
I know that, Lord whatever it may be
You'll be there to carry me through.

Mrs. Merrel Thompson

*We at Christ Lutheran
Church wish you all a very
Happy New Year!*

“Clay in the Master’s Hands” Women’s Retreat

“Like clay in the hand of the potter,
so are you in my hand...”

The next CLC Women's Retreat will be the
weekend of March 25-27, 2011
Serra Retreat Center in Malibu, CA
Speaker: Carole Wolaver The Pottery Lady

Registration will begin January 23rd.
Questions? Contact Linda Ferguson
661/2960263 or laf4@att.net.





HIGH SCHOOL

These are some things we are trying to implement with the High School Youth here at CLC.

How do we talk so kids will listen and listen so kids will talk?

According to teens, when they are upset, the last thing they want to hear is advice, philosophy, psychology, or the other person's point of view. That kind of talk makes them feel worse. Let someone really listen, they say. Let someone acknowledge my inner pain and give me a chance to talk more about what's troubling me, and I begin to feel less upset, less confused, and more able to cope with my feelings and my problem.

There are a few things we can do as youth leaders and parents and friends to help a teen in distress.

Listen with full attention – Put down your phone, turn your chair around, and quietly listen to the whole story.

Acknowledge their feelings – Don't jump in with questions or advice; start with simple phrases that indicate you are listening and that you care. "I see. Tell me more."

Give the feelings a name – We deny a teen's feelings when we say things like "Everything's okay" or "Don't freak out." When we say, "That must have been really frustrating." Or "Sounds like you're pretty mad," then we convey understanding that leads to constructive conversation.

Here is what is coming up in January:

Sunday School will meet throughout January at 9:30 in the Youth Center. We will study the New Testament with Brad Eledge, Mike McGeever, Ryan Metlen, Christian Parr, Tim Tiemann, Todd LeGassick, and Kathleen Kahovec. Come early for donuts and hang out time.

Impact will meet throughout January on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in the Youth Center. We will have Freshman Night on January

25. Come and support the freshmen as they lead the evening with food, music, games, and lesson.

Senior Quilts – Seniors, you should have purchased your fabric by now and have handed out those quilt squares. The quilt squares should be collected back to you by January 16 and turned into the church office.

Retreat – The High school retreat is March 11-13, 2011. We are going to Forest Home in Ojai. Mark your calendars. You should have received the forms in the mail. Additional forms are available in the Youth Center. The cost of the retreat is \$120. Forms are due February 23.

Arizona Mission Trip – The youth mission trip will be to Arizona this July 31 – August 6. We will build 2 houses with Amor Ministries. Sign ups will begin January 23.

Important Dates and Numbers:

Mission Dates: Sunday, July 31 – Saturday, August 6, 2011

Easter Breakfast: April 24 (or setup April 23)

Individual Goal Setting Meetings: Late June or Early July

Total Cost: \$300 (can earn \$60 off for serving at Easter breakfast)

\$50 Deposit: due by May 1

Full payment: due by July 1

Tents and tools day: Saturday July 16, 9:00 AM

Pack in: July 30, 9:00 AM

Depart: July 31, 6:00AM

Return: August 6, 2:00PM.

Children's Ministries



Sunday School – Please continue to make Sunday school a priority for your family. This is the time of year when we study the life of Jesus in the Gospels. This is also the time of year when our attendance goes down due to many other commitments. Please make worship and Sunday school a priority this year. We offer Sunday school at 9:30 for ages 2 – High School and at 11:00 am we have Kids' Church for ages 3 – 6th grade. Newcomers are always welcome.

MIDWEEK PROGRAMS

KOK - KOK is back on schedule starting January 5 for a 9 week winter session. This midweek program is for ages 3 – 3rd grade on Wednesday nights from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Dawn Diaz is in charge of KOK and can answer any questions you might have at 263-8697. Don't forget to come early for dinner. Dinner is served from 4:30 – 7:00 pm.

Youth Adventures – Youth Adventures also starts again January 5 for a 9 week session. We meet in the Youth Center from 6 – 7pm. This is for children in 4th – 6th grade. Don't forget to come early for dinner. Dinner is served from 4:30 – 7:00 pm.

We are going on a winter retreat to El Camino Pines February 4-6. The medical forms and \$120 payment are due January 12. There is a short parent meeting about the retreat on January 5 at 6pm in the fellowship center. Call Kathleen Kahovec if you need forms or have questions at 259-0200 ext. 33.

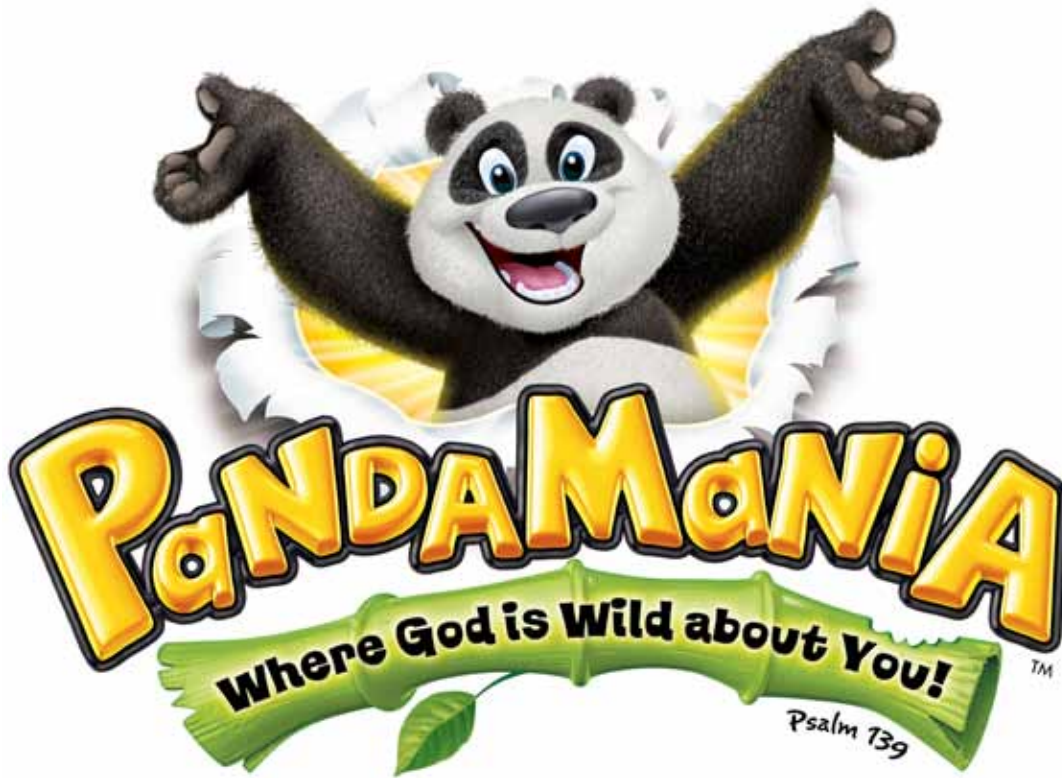
Wednesday, January 19 – Edward Amey from LA Lutheran Middle and Senior High School will be coming on campus to share with us about their new school and programs in Sylmar. "We share Christ, disciple Christian believers, and prepare students for college and life"

He will speak at 6:45 in the Fellowship Center to all the students and interested parents. Please join us!

Junior High



Confirmation continues to meet on Wednesdays in the Youth Center from 7:00 - 8:30 pm starting January 5. This is for 7th and 8th grades. Don't forget to come early for dinner. Dinner is served from 4:30 - 7:00 pm. Please contact Kathleen Kahovec if you have questions about confirmation 259-0200 ext. 33. Also, you can check the website each week for confirmation updates. The confirmation portion is updated every Thursday. Keep working on those worship notes and service hours. Your updated records are posted every Monday in the Welcome Center.



The VBS dates have been set for June 20 - 24, 2011. We will be using Group Curriculum again with the theme "PandaMania, Where God is Wild About You."

Registration will begin May 8. Mark your calendars now.

We will have an Outreach VBS in Newhall again. The dates are July 11, 12, and 13. Please plan on volunteering to help reach the community of Newhall with the love of Jesus. Felicity Grover will be coordinating the Newhall VBS.

Preschool News

We were excited to welcome the Wildlife Learning Center's animal friends to our school. Some animals we were able to touch and others we just observed from a safe distance!

We met

- ... "Anita", an African tortoise and her baby, "Squirt".
- ... a North American porcupine, "Gertie"
- ... "Spike", a pigmy hedgehog
- ... a milk snake, "Debbie"
- ... a chinchilla
- ... "Emmett", an American alligator
- ... a blue-tongue skink named "Angelina"
- ... a beautiful fox and a rabbit
- ... a serval and a very long and very big python!

We were thrilled that 67 people from the community came to enjoy the animals with us!





1st

Chris Fernandez
Victor Lacy
Holly Nelson
Hannah Remsen
Hilary Skoch

2nd

Henry Metlen
Hailey Onuscheck

3rd

Tom Loring
Nicholas Lottermoser
Michael Schubert

4th

Connor Burkhardt
Austin Duenas
Christie Lincoln
Eija Moss

5th

Bob Bonar
Joyce Johnston
Noelle Shalkevich
Jeffrey Socher
Rose Thiemer

6th

Jeff Barcus
Denise Lapp
Cheryl Osborne
Chloe Pickett

7th

Molly Eledge

8th

Davey Burnett
Jill Carleton
Jane Leach
Brittany Werts
Joanna Wilson
Donna Wright

9th

Kristen Brown
Stephanie Cossio
Sri Effertz
Whitney Hayward
Kris Huber

10th

11th

Samantha Haro
Sean McMenamin
Hope Seper
Debra Wallace

12th

Debi Colbert
Reagan Davis
Megan Town

13th

Jennifer Drake
Dennis Hutton
Ashley Jones
Megan Koscki
Emma McNulty

14th

Sarah Clark
Nicholas Schreiner
Jessica Schubert
Sara Weideman
Evan Young

15th

Lucas Robinson
Matthew Sganga
Haley Vizza

16th

Roger Ballinger
Marie Edmiston
Lisa Kennedy
Danielle Ryan
Phil Ryan

17th

Stacy Miller
Vic Seper
Evan Swartz

18th

Natalea Daily
Rick Mathewson
Olivia Tenney

19th

Cindy Asaro
George Dowling
Cindy Drake
Judi Rivers

20th

Betty Iverson
Wayne Nossaman
Mona Witkowski
Tommy Wunsch

21st

Greg Baroth
Eric Hernandez
Paul Mangione
Emilie McCarty
Sean Walter

22nd

Elizabeth Chabino
Phil Hyland
Anne Jones
Caitlin Meschkat
Jeanette Ryan
Doug Wuerl

23rd

Mildred Bowman
Jeanne Papenthien
Kyla Rodas

24th

Phil Graybill
Trudi Hegy
Sable Hutton
Nanette Meister

25th

Jack Bost
Sherri Hitch
Christy Rappleye
Doug Tauber

26th

Kaitlyn Crowder
Lauren Franco
Reymond Lara
Elizabeth Strote

27th

Mandi Parker
Margaret Partridge
Don Post
Lori Turner

28th

Catherine Flynn
Kurt Ganderup
Krista Maynard
Pastor Dan Parr
Jessica Sherwood
Danielle Thompson
Jennifer Thompson

29th

Marlene Bost
Lars Heinstedt
Robert Nichols

30th

Lise Choate
Jayne Johnson
Jaden Marks
Tanner Moore
Zachary Theberge

31st

Ellie Bradley
Spencer Flynn
Daniel Kinney
Jan Kreuter
Lauren Nolan
Cathy Rappleye
Ashley Stegeman



ChristLutheranChurch

25816 North Tournament Road

Santa Clarita, CA 91355

661-259-0200

www.come2christ.com

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule:

8:00 - Traditional Worship

9:30 - Blended Worship

11:00 - Informal Worship

Sunday School for all ages at 9:30

Kids' Church at 11:00

Visit us on Facebook

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SANTA CLARITA, CA
PERMIT NO. 32

