

Christ Lutheran Church & School

311 S. Citrus St | West Covina, California

Church: 626-331-5309 | School: 626-966-3470

Website Address: www.clcwc.com

December 2019/January 2020 CLC NEWSLETTER

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

~ 2 Corinthians 9:15

Where Tradition and
Tomorrow Meet



Welcome to
Christ Lutheran
Church & School





From the Pastor:

Do you remember how much preparation was required for the birth of your first child? We have to get a crib! We have to take birthing classes! We have to make monthly doctor's appointments. We have to prepare the birth announcements to send out! We have to pack a bag for the hospital stay! We have to make sure the bag is by the front door every night during the last month! And about a million other things I have blocked from my memory. It was a lot of intentional work to get ready for the baby, and it all needed to be done at once, thus all those exclamation marks.

As we enter the season of Advent, we prepare spiritually for the coming of the Child of Bethlehem into our lives. And this takes work to prepare. But the spiritual preparations are different than that for physical preparation. During the Season of Advent we embrace particular themes to guide our spiritual preparation.

Week 1—Do Less, Don't let all the tasks to be done to prepare for Christmas cause you to miss Jesus. What might you let go of, or even not do to be more present with Christ this Advent.

Week 2—Experience Wonder, Don't let exhaustion diminish your wonder at all the WONDER-FULL things God is doing all around you. How can you experience wonder for God's works and be fed by wonder in the midst of this busy season?

Week 3—Hold on to Hope, Our troubles do not go away just because Christmas is coming. How can we hold on to hope in the midst of the world's troubles?

Week 4—Embrace Hope, The Christmas holiday is often an emotionally dark time for people. To embrace hope means to cling to Christ's hope even if we don't feel it, and not to give in to despair.

Having a Merry Christmas requires doing the life giving work of Advent.

Happy Holy Labor



It's the Christmas Season, also known as the "Season of Giving". There are so many ways that we can help our little ones give. At Christ Lutheran School we ask for students to bring in canned goods, grocery store gift cards, and unwrapped toys. These are things that we collect that go to those who aren't as blessed as we are. And we offer them with our prayers and hope that the next year things will improve for those in need.

A few years ago, I bought a goat for my students. That's right a real, live goat. But we didn't have to figure out who was going to watch it on the weekends. I purchased the goat through Heifer International, a charity that places livestock with families in need. It provides the training needed to care for an animal. That animal gives the family a way to make money. In return, the family must give some of the animal's offspring back to the program so that they can be sent to new families. We received updates throughout the year telling us that our goat had arrived. We learned that the milk from the goat can be used for basic nutrition, and excess milk can be sold. Families are even taught how to turn that excess milk into cheese, which brings in even more money. It's an amazing program. I highly recommend you look into it.

Buying that goat for my kids was a neat experience, but something even more wonderful came from it. I started getting email from my students' families. They told their families about this really cool goat and how the program worked. My students asked their families if they could buy livestock too. One goat turned into 3 goats, a flock of chickens, and a cow. Five years later, I'm still amazed.

As an adult, we realize that giving sometimes comes from a place of sacrifice. If we send \$100 to charity, it's \$100 less that we have to spend or to save. But I don't think our children understand that giving and sacrifice go hand-in-hand. It's our job as parents to teach them this, but we don't. I'm guilty of this. I take my kids to Target to get something for the toy drive, only to get them each a little something too. I am teaching them that giving is important, but I'm not teaching them that sometimes in order to give we have to give up. I'm not helping them make a Jesus-like sacrifice. He gave, and He gave of himself, until He had nothing left to give. And then He gave His life. Truly a sacrifice that meant giving it all.

How do we teach our children to make a sacrifice when giving? Is it necessary to teach them this? I don't know the answer to either question, but I do know that if I'm encouraging them to live "like Jesus" they will need to learn that sacrifice is often a part of giving.

What do you think?

And speaking of sacrifice...have you wanted to find a place to serve, but weren't too sure that you had the time to commit? Want to work with children, but not all the time? Consider joining our list of Sunday school substitutes. Lessons are planned, crafts are crafted, movies are...um, movie'd? The Children's Ministry just needs someone to fill in every once in a while. Contact me or the office if you're interested.

Emilia

Emilia Park
Children's Ministries
626-331-5309 xt. 225

My First Holiday with S.W.A.G.

Saved With Amazing Grace

'Twas the month before Christmas and a New Year, and all through the office the phones were ringing, the copier never stopped and the staff was in need of a long overdue nap.

The newsletter is filled with overflowing information and dates, and the bulletin had no room, so inserts were made.

A conference was held for the Jr. S.W.A.G. we overtook Anaheim, Denny's, Disneyland, and had a GREAT TIME. Psalm 23 and Me was the theme, and we learned how God is always there when we are in need.

The Church was bare until the Christ Lutheran Elves turned up the music and danced while hanging lights, indoor and out, placing decorations anywhere and everywhere that one could look and see.

There are Concerts to host, Christmas plays to be seen, ham dinners to be made, a Christmas Parade for all to see how Christ Lutheran Church & School is a really cool place to be.

It is important to me that S.W.A.G. is known as the place to be. A place for God's Children to learn the Good Word that together we read.

We have a lot coming up, and many things to announce, so grab a pen, you won't want to miss out:

There are calendars for sale that can fill stockings and make a nice gift

Myrna Ott's Famous Toffee orders are being taken only \$5.00 a box

The New Year will bring a whole lot more even a Car Wash or 2

BUT....One thing to remember when you are busy standing about, the only reason for this Joyous Season, is the Birth of our Savior Little Baby Jesus.

To all God's Children that are apart of S.W.A.G. and Christ Lutheran School, thank you for letting me be the one to share with you the stories of God's love, for all.

Happy Birthday Wishes Jesus and a Faith Filled New Year....

Jenn

The Music Corner

Joy to the World!

Surprisingly, this hymn was not written for Christmas. Rather, Isaac Watts wrote the hymn as a paraphrase of the last five verses in Psalm 98 for his 1719 publication, *The Psalms of David Imitated*. In this hymnal, Watts rewrites many of the psalms using a Christological lens. His versification of Psalm 98 is no different. Verse nine of the psalm reads, "...let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity." Watts unapologetically interprets this as a reference to Christ. The theme of "Christ coming" made it an popular hymn to be sung at Christmastime, and it has since become one of the most beloved Christmas carols.

Albert Bailey writes, "It is one of the most joyous Christmas hymns in existence; not in the sense of merry-making but in the deep and solemn realization of what Christ's birth has meant to mankind" (*The Gospel in Hymns*, 54). Watt's text has almost been left untouched by editors, with one exception. The line "far as the curse is found" is left out of many hymnals, since there is no reference to this "curse" in the actual psalm. However, when seen through the eyes of the New Testament and Gospel message, the reference to Genesis 3:17-18 becomes quite clear.

In Genesis 3, one of the great tragedies in all of Scripture occurs. Adam and Eve sin against God, and are banished from the garden as God puts a curse upon the ground. It is a heartbreaking rupture in God's perfect creation, and it is hard not to read this text without feeling a twinge of despair. And yet, before the curse comes a promise. God declares that the woman shall bear offspring that will crush the head of the serpent. Jesus, the Son of Man and Son of God, will come to break the curse, to renew the creation, to make whole what is now broken.

In Psalm 98, all of creation is called upon to make a joyful noise before God, for the Lord has come to "judge the earth," and restore His Creation. We should not fail to see our own hand at work in the destruction of creation, in our sins of waste and decadence. This "judgment of the earth" is, in some part, a judgment of us as caretakers. But God is merciful and full of grace, and rather than leave everything in our hands, He gives us the Life-giver. In this beautiful hymn, Isaac Watts makes the connection between the coming of Christ into this world and the beginning of that restoration. Christ brings "joy to the world," a light where there is darkness, growth where there is decay. And we, along with all Creation, respond with a song of praise.

Christina Bristow
Director of Music



The Baby Boomers

We will be meeting at
the home of Cynthia Knutson
For our December get-together!
December 17, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.
6172 Park Crest Drive
Chino Hills

PLEASE PLEASE call Cynthia at (909) 472-1680 if you are able to join us!

Ray Fausel Service

December 27th at 1:00 p.m.
Christ Lutheran Church

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to
Christ Lutheran Church, West Covina, City of Hope
or the Salvation Army



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL

presents

♪ **IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS** ♪

Sunday

DECEMBER 8, 2019

4PM

PRE-CONCERT PROGRAM of CHRISTMAS FAVORITES

presented by

THE FAITHFUL FOUR

with special guest artist Susan Hafner, flute

PROGRAM

presented by

Chancel Choir

Christ Lutheran School



CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL CLOSED

DECEMBER 23—JANUARY 3

CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

- ❄ **December 10th : TK-3rd Grade Christmas Program at 7:00 p.m.**
- ❄ **December 11th: 4th—8th Grade Christmas Program at 7:00 p.m.**
- ❄ **December 17th: Preschool Christmas Program**
9:30 a.m. for Grandparents 7:00 p.m. for Parents



Christ Lutheran School

Christmas Boutique

Nelson Hall

Dec. 9th—Dec. 13th

We welcome you ALL!

Monday, Dec. 9th	10 am to 5 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 10th	10 am to 8:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 11th	10 am to 5 pm
Thursday, Dec. 12th	10 am to 8:30 pm
Friday, Dec. 13th	10 am to 5 pm



For questions please email at CLSCChristmasBoutique@yahoo.com Or contact Patty at 818-590-2837

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Congregational Meeting regarding election of new council members and approval of the budget will be on December 15, right after the service. By a unanimous vote, council decided that for this year only we would meet on the 3rd Sunday in December. The reasoning for this was very simple. The first Sunday, December 1st, is the last day of Thanksgiving vacation. The concern was that people might not have returned from out of town. The second Sunday, December 8th, is the annual Choir Christmas Concert and ham dinner. That makes for a very long day and evening for some. After much discussion, Council decided that for this year only we would meet on the third Sunday, December 15th. We will have copies of the proposed budget available well in advance of the meeting. I wanted to make everyone aware of why council made this decision. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask me. I pray that everyone understands why we made this decision.

God's Blessings

Shirley Jett

Women's Bible Study will NOT MEET IN DECEMBER

Women's Bible Study WILL Meet in January

January 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Women's Bible Study will meet, Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 9:30 am in the West Room at CLC. We will use Chapter 2 from SOLA Publishing ***"Rejoice in the Lord, Always!", A Bible Study on the Book of Philippians***, this month.

Women of all ages are welcome.

Invite a friend! Come for fellowship and popcorn, too!

The Christ Lutheran Church Christmas Angel Tree is Here!



The Angel tree is now in the Narthex. The gifts are for newborns through 12 years of age.

Pick an angel or angels, then on the list next to the tree write your name and whether it's for a boy or a girl and their age.

Please return your wrapped gift, with the Angel taped to the gift, no later than December 8.

Blessings,

Rose Webb



Christmas Poinsettias

Purchase an Armstrong Nursery poinsettia in honor of a loved one. Order envelopes are in the pew racks. Cost of a poinsettia plant is \$10.00 each.

A donor list will be posted in the narthex just before Christmas!

Myrna's Toffee



The Famous Myrna Ott Toffee recipe is being handed down to our Jr. and Sr.
S.W.A.G. Youth Journey.

We will be taking order starting November 24th
The last day to place your order will be Sunday, December 8th
You will receive your orders on Sunday, December 15th
Reserve yours on Sunday's at the Gazebo
\$5.00 per box



Children's Christmas Parade & Santa's Village

Saturday, December 14, 2019
Old Town Center
S. Glendora Ave. & Walnut Creek Pkwy

Parade—10 a.m.
Santa's Village—9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday School will meet on the following dates:

December 8th, 15th and 22nd
We will resume on January 5th

Blessings to you!

Emilia Park, Director of Children's Ministry

Lutheran Retreats Camps & Conferences Winter Weekend Retreat

February 7-9, 2020

This year's theme is: Under Construction

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"

Ephesians 2:10

Adults (12 and up): \$105.00

Youth (4-11): \$95.00

Children under 3: Free

Family Max: \$350.00

A non-refundable deposit of \$75.00 is due at the time of registration

You can pick-up a retreat packet at the Gazebo starting Dec. 1st

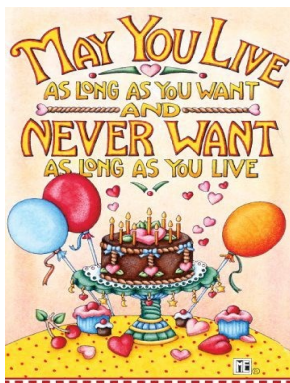
For more information contact Jennifer:

(909) 969-4966 or clwcycyouth@gmail.com



Stephen Ministry will meet on

December 6th



December Birthday's

Lorraine Hofstad	2
Garrett Smith	2
Marisa Copeland	3
Ian Flores	3
Eric Lestick	5
Sylvia Kerns	10
Eric Smith	10
Victor Mora	11
Reneea Bacon	15
Sydney Kerns	16
Jenny Hess	18
Douglas Solem	18
Amanda Tognetti	18
Judith Mendoza	19
Gary Schweitzer	19
Emmanuel Azariah	22
Kenneth Mathias	23
June Lee	24
Dylan Lok	25
David Weber	25
Marian Bowen	27
David Mathias	27
Carlee Arnold	28
Valerie Verity-Mock	29
Bonnie Kasamatsu	30
Shannon Terry	30



December Anniversaries

Douglas & Sharon Solem	1
William & Georgia Miller	4
Robin & Joyce Hill	17
Lee & Judith Mendoza	30

Ministry Staff

Church 626.331.5309

School 626.967.7531

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Pastor and Superintendent

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Colin Tierney, Office Coordinator

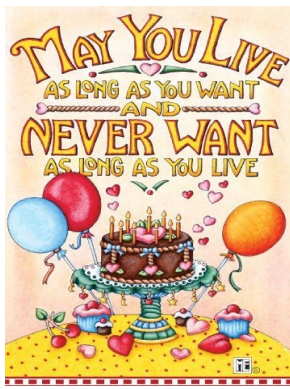
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311 S. Citrus Street

West Covina, California 91791

December 2019—Calendar subject to change

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
1	9:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion at Altar	SCTRY
	11 AM	Mandarin Chinese Service	NH
	3-7 PM	Filipino Outreach Ministry	Chrst Chpl/WR
2	6 PM	Women of Christ Advent Dinner	NH
5	7-9 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	WR
5	4-5 PM	Confirmation Class	YR
5	7-9 PM	Choir Practice	CR
6	9:30-11 AM	Stephen's Ministry	WR
6	7 PM	Mandarin Chinese Bible Study	WR
8	9:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion at Font	SCTRY
	11 AM	Mandarin Chinese Service	NH
	3-7 PM	Filipino Outreach Ministry	Chrst Chpl/WR
8	4 PM	Church & School Christmas Concert	SCTRY
		Ham Dinner following Christmas Concert	NH
9-15	All Day	Holiday Christmas Boutique	NH
10	7 PM	Church Council	Lib
10	7 PM	CLS Christmas Program (TK-3)	SCTRY
11	7 PM	CLS Christmas Program (4-8)	SCTRY
12	7-9 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	NH
12	4-5 PM	Confirmation Class	YR
12	7-9 PM	Choir Practice	CR
13	7 PM	Mandarin Chinese Bible Study	WR
14		S.W.A.G. Christmas Party	
15	9:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion at Altar	SCTRY
15	10:30 AM	Congregational Meeting	SCTRY
	11 AM	Mandarin Chinese Service	NH
	3-7 PM	Filipino Outreach Ministry	Chrst Chpl/WR
17	9:30 AM	Preschool Christmas Program/Grandparents	SCTRY
17	11:30 AM	Baby Boomers	
17	7 PM	Preschool Christmas Program/Parents	SCTRY
17	6:30 PM	Trustees Meeting	CnfR
19	7-9 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	WR
19	4-5 PM	Confirmation Class	YR
20	7 PM	Mandarin Chinese Bible Study	WR
22	9:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion at Font	SCTRY
	11 AM	Mandarin Chinese Service	NH
	3-7 PM	Filipino Outreach Ministry	Chrst ChplWR
24-27		Church Closed	
24	5 PM	Christmas Eve Service	SCTRY
24	9 PM	Christmas Eve Service	SCTRY
26	7-9 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	WR
29	9:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion at Altar	SCTRY
31		Church Closed	



January Birthday's

<i>Orris Hoff</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Víctor Mora Jr.</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Alyssa Martínez</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Noemí Barajas</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Margaret Hannemann</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Jacoe Ware</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Ray Leavitt</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Gayle Mason</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Cathy Nordeen</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Brianna San Juan</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Diana Howard</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Brandon Mead</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Zaheer Amer</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Melissa Espinoza</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Fred Mittelstaedt</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Ruth Collier</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Raymond Barajas</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Dominic Costa</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Cynthia Knutson</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Jackie Ellingsen</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Patricia Mead</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Johnny Park</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Eula Heald</i>	<i>31</i>



January Anniversaries

Fred & Diane Mittelstaedt *18*

Ministry Staff

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Pastor and Superintendent

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January 2020—Calendar subject to change

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dec. 23-Jan. 3		School Closed—Christmas Vacation	
Dec. 31-Jan. 1		Church Closed	
2	7-9 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	WR
3	7 PM	Mandarin Chinese Bible Study	WR
5	9:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion at Altar	SCTRY
	11 AM	Mandarin Chinese Service	NH
	3-7 PM	Filipino Outreach Ministry	Chrst Chpl/WR
7	9:30-11 AM	Women's Bible Study	WR
9	7-9 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	WR
9	7-8:30 PM	Choir Practice	CR
10	7 PM	Mandarin Chinese Bible Study	WR
12	9:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion at Font	SCTRY
	11 AM	Mandarin Chinese Service	NH
	3-7 PM	Filipino Outreach Ministry	Chrst Chpl/WR
16	7-9 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	WR
16	4-5 PM	Confirmation Class	YR
16	7-8:30 PM	Choir Practice	CR
17	7 PM	Mandarin Chinese Bible Study	WR
19	9:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion at Altar	SCTRY
	11 AM	Mandarin Chinese Service	NH
	3-7 PM	Filipino Outreach Ministry	SCTRY/WR
20		Church/School Closed—Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
21	11:30 a.m.	Baby Boomers Lunch	
21	6:30 PM	Trustees Meeting	CnfR
23	7-9 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	WR
23	7-8:30 PM	Confirmation Class	YR
23	7-8:30 PM	Choir Practice	CR
24	7 PM	Mandarin Chinese Bible Study	WR
26	9:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion at Font	SCTRY
	11 AM	Mandarin Chinese Service	NH
	3-7 PM	Filipino Outreach Ministry	Chrst Chpl/WR
30	7-9 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	WR
30	4-5 PM	Confirmation Class	YR
30	7-8:30 PM	Choir Practice	CR
31	7 PM	Mandarin Chinese Bible Study	WR