

ISSUE 13 QUARTER 4 DECEMBER 2023

# THE GOOD NEWS

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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## WORSHIP WITH US!

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

### 9:30 AM

• IN-PERSON • YOUTUBE •



## A NOTE FROM PASTOR KINNDLEE

*"When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream . . ." Psalm 126:1*

Dear CLC faith family and friends,

When I was a child, I used to love to daydream. How about you? Do you consider yourself a dreamer? Do you have positive, negative or ambivalent associations with the idea of dreams? Or do you perhaps have dreams that have left you feeling disappointed and broken, maybe dreams you have had to defer or give up on altogether? This Advent season, I am excited to introduce you to our theme: "Those Who Dream." We will be exploring this idea throughout December and into January, ending with Epiphany. This may strike you as an unusual theme for the season—what happened to "Joy to the World" or "Prince of Peace?"—

*Continued on next page.*

## PASTOR KINNDLEE, CONTINUED

But my hope is that our reflections will ignite new ideas, visions and dreams in you during this Advent season. What new dreams might you have for your life or the future of Christ Lutheran Church? The theme “Those Who Dream” comes from Psalm 126, a reading for the Third Sunday of Advent, verse 1: *“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream . . . ”* Our theme explores how many of the people in the stories of Advent and Epiphany, from the psalmists, to John the Baptist, Mary, Simeon and Anna, all the way to the Magi, were all dreamers in one way or another. They all received, responded to, or dared to dream God’s dream of a world redeemed and loved. Advent, in fact, is a season like no other in which we are invited to step into the mystery and awe of that dream as we invite Christ to be once again birthed into our lives and hearts and as we pray that God’s dream will shape our reality and world anew.

Rev. Sarah Are, one of the creators of the “Those Who Dream” resource, said this about the theme itself:

*“[In this short phrase of Psalm 126], I could see the dreams within church basements filled with AA and grief support groups. I could see the dreams within Pride festivals, Black Lives Matter marches in the streets, and couples longing to be parents. I could see the dreams of congregations fighting decline and teenagers fighting for a cleaner planet. And I could see the dream of Advent—a space and time set aside to remember that God is with us. So this Advent, we invite you to join us in dreaming—as an act of hope, as an act of resistance, as an act of faith.”*

What a beautiful invitation to dream together, right?

This theme also reminds me of the story of Pentecost in Acts 2:17, where God is quoted via the prophet Joel as saying, “In the last days it will be . . . that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.” Isn’t it wonderful that no matter what stage of life we are in, God invites us to see new visions and dream new dreams? Has the Spirit been sowing something in your heart? Now is the time to explore it together. Whether these are the last days or the first days, my prayer for this Advent season is that we will be immersed and enfolded in God’s dreams for us and our world. We will practice being people who dream along with God through our Sunday worship, sermons, music and special liturgies, as well as through daily devotionals that will be made available filled with poetry, scriptural reflections and artwork. I am excited for our first Advent together. Won’t you join me in dreaming?

Serving (and dreaming) with you in Emmanuel,  
Pastor Kinndlee

## UPCOMING BIBLE READINGS *for more readings, [click here](#)*

### Dec 10

Isa 40:1-11  
Ps 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

### Dec 17

Isa 61: 1-4, 8-11  
Ps 126  
1 Thess 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

### Dec 24

Isa 9:2-7  
Ps 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

### Dec 31

Isa 61:10-62:3  
Ps 148  
Gal 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40

### Jan 7

Isa 60:1-6  
Ps 72:1-7, 10-14  
Eph 3:1-12  
Matt 2:1-12

### Jan 14

Gen 1:1-5  
Ps 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

## DEACON CONNECTIONS

Welcome to Advent, Christ Lutheran family!

Get ready to embrace the magic of this wonderful season together. This year, our Advent 4 falls on Christmas Eve, making December 17th an extra special day as we dive into the touching story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, combined with the texts for Advent 3.

On December 17th, join us for a Feelin' Festive Cookies & Coffee Hour after worship. Bring along your favorite cookies to share and enjoy the favorites of your CLC friends, all while listening to a magnificent solo from our friend Carjanae. That day, we will also put the finishing touches on the Sanctuary Christmas decorations. Come get festive!

Mark your calendars for December 24th – a day filled with love and tradition! Our family Christmas pageant at 4 pm promises laughter and joy as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Whether you're participating or watching, it's a time to embrace the adorable chaos of our impromptu pageant and experience the story through the eyes of a child. Costumes for kids of all ages are available in the church lobby. Then, at 8 pm, immerse yourself in our cherished traditional communion service, glowing with candlelight and resonating with the melodies of Christmas hymns.

Stay tuned for the next Sacred Makers gathering in January! Exciting details and dates for the project will be posted soon.

For those engaged in caregiving, we're here for you! Caring for Caregivers meets every 2nd Thursday of the month (December 14, January 11, February 8). Join this supportive community for a space filled with encouragement, support, and collaborative solutions. All caregivers, past and present, are welcome to join this caring group.

Peace,  
Deacon Taflin Fisher

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## MUSIC NOTES

We have lovely music coming up for Advent and Christmas. At the December 3 service, we welcomed back Bronwyn Allen-Kaeser for a solo on "A Cradle in Bethlehem." This sweet song was written in 1952 by Larry Stock and Alfred Bryan, and became an "instant" hit in 1960 with Nat King Cole's recording of it. On December 10 we will be blessed by Michael Morgan's deeply dulcet tones. December 17 offers a variety of singing: Carjanae, the Christ Lutheran Choir, and a duet featuring Pastor Kinndlee and Josh Baesler. On Christmas Eve the Ukulutherans will be featured at the family service, and organist Alan Dominicci plays for us at the 8:00 pm service.

Community Concerts at Christ PB are growing in popularity. On January 21 we'll host the original Celtic Fusion music of guitarist and raconteur Michael Mandrell, and on February 18 Hawaiian Slack Key artist Jim Kimo West will be joined by Diana Tanaka with traditional hula and mele (song).

Hymns: I love to get feedback - positive or not-so-positive - about choices for congregational singing. And please let me know if you have a favorite hymn (or hymns) that may not be getting enough "rotation."

All blessings of the season to you!

Kate Moody, Music Director

# 2023 MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM WRAP-UP

*Submitted by Sabrina Stern*

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to our 2023 matching gift fundraiser! This year there were five organizations eligible for a 1 to 1 match of up to \$2,000. The organizations were: Community Christian Service Agency (CCSA), The Rwandan Orphans Project (ROP), GiGi's Playhouse of San Diego, Shoreline Community Services, and Agape San Diego (formerly Agape House). When all donations were counted, all five organizations eligible for matching gift received the full \$2,000 match! We received \$13,144 in donations, matched with \$10,000 in matching funds for a total of \$23,144 sent to these organizations.

## CLC OFFICE HOURS

**Monday** Open 10 AM - 2 PM

**Tuesday** Open 10 AM - 2 PM

**Wednesday** Open 10 AM - 2 PM

**Thursday** Open 10 AM - 2 PM

**Friday** Closed

**Saturday** Closed

**Sunday** Closed

*Office hours may be irregular. To meet with anyone from our staff, please set up an appointment with the respective person.*

## CLC COUNCIL ROSTER

**President** Matt Thayer

**Vice President** Cristine Holmer

**Treasurer** John Heffner

**Secretary** Kathleen Ashland

Grace Fantaroni,

Dustin Hinrichsen,

Stefan Seper,

Mary Swenson

& Susan Yates

## CLC STAFF

**Reverend Kinndlee Lund**

Lead Pastor

*pastorandy@christpb.org*

**Deacon Taflin Fisher**

Minister For Life In Community

*taflinf@christpb.org*

**Kate Moody**

Music Director

*kate@christpb.org*

**Sabrina Stern**

Business & Office Manager

*sabrina@christpb.org*

**Chelsey Hinrichsen**

Digital Media Director

*chelsey@christpb.org*

**Drew Mille**

Custodian

## CLC PRAYER LIST

**Friends & Loved Ones** Ron Geibert, Jean Klein, Pastor Kinndlee Lund & her family, Friends & Family of Janet Douglas on her passing

**Those In The Armed Services & Their Families** Jed Bauch and Dustin Hinrichsen

**All Healthcare Workers Worldwide** Angela Cyphers and Taylor and Marie Strait

**CLC Community Near & Far**

Caring Ministers, Staff, Council & Prayer Team, our Neighbors Together Family, and anyone struggling in body, mind, and/or spirit

*To add a name to the prayer list, email Deacon Taflin*

## 2023 GIVING TREES

*Submitted by Sabrina Stern*

This year, we are providing multiple giving opportunities for alternative Christmas Gifts or to help those less fortunate this holiday season. In the sanctuary at CLC, you will see three colored trees. Each of these trees has ornaments for a different giving opportunity.

The blue tree is for the ELCA Good Gifts program. If someone on your gift list is hard to shop for, or if you are wondering what to get for the person who already has everything, think about pulling an ornament from the ELCA Good Gifts tree and donating in someone's honor. This program allows you to donate to purchase things like goats, bees, hygiene kits, and the like in areas that need them most. There are many different ornaments with a variety of items and price points, so you can match the person you are giving in honor of to a cause that will be meaningful to them. You can either give to CLC via check with Good Gifts in the memo or give directly to Good Gifts here: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

The Purple tree is for the CCSA Christmas Gift Basket Program. CCSA is trying to deliver festive Christmas baskets full of nonperishable food and gift cards for perishables to families in need so they can celebrate the holiday with a delicious Christmas meal. CLC is trying to gather supplies for multiple baskets, so we have divided the baskets into smaller items and are asking you to consider donating all or part of a basket. You can take the ornaments for the items you want to buy from the tree, and then bring the items to CLC on or before December 10. You can also make a monetary donation, and we can use it to fill in the items we do not receive.

The white tree is for Shoreline Community Services' cold weather resources drive. Shoreline Community Services, which operates the Compass Station at God's Garage, is gathering donations of hats, gloves, sleeping bags, jackets, etc for people experiencing homelessness to help them survive the cold of winter. They have an Amazon wish list you can buy items from directly, or you can donate to CLC and specify Shoreline, or even a specific item, and we will purchase the items for you.

All of these programs are working to help at a local level to get needed resources to those struggling. We thank you for your donations to any of these programs.



# FINANCE REPORT NOVEMBER 2023

*Submitted by Sabrina Stern*

I just wanted to give you a few notes on the finances in CLC. You probably received a giving statement towards the beginning of November with a pledge card and stewardship letter. This is the last statement you will receive before the end of the year, so please check it over for accuracy. It's much easier to make changes now than after the year has ended.

If you did not return your pledge card for 2024 in time for commitment Sunday on November 26, it's not too late! You can mail or bring them in still! They are a very useful tool for our financial planning.

For 2024, we will no longer be providing numbered offering envelope booklets. We can provide you with a box of generic envelopes if they would be useful to you, and I can give you your new number to include on your checks. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please don't hesitate to let me know.

In order for a gift to show up on your giving statement for 2023, donations need to be postmarked by December 30 (since the 31st is a Sunday).

We are currently running a deficit of about \$13,000 for 2023, and are behind in our offerings income. I have seen CLC come back from deficits much more significant than this to end the year with a positive cash flow. As we approach the end of the year, please consider making an additional gift to Christ Lutheran Church to help us end the year in a healthy financial position.

Thank you all for your generosity and faithfulness. I am grateful for all of you.

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## UPCOMING FLOWER DEDICATIONS

**December 10:** Dedicated by Mary Jeanne Schram in loving memory of Carol Small, my big sister and Godmother.

**December 17:** Dedicated by Judee Sedler and Doug Druly in celebration of their fourth wedding anniversary.

**December 24:** Dedicated by the Arnold Family in celebration of the Christmas holiday and Mark and Ben's birthdays.

**December 31:** Available for dedication.

**January 7:** Available for dedication.

**January 14:** Available for dedication.

**January 21:** Available for dedication.

**January 28:** Available for dedication.

**February 4:** Available for dedication.

**February 11:** Available for dedication.

**February 18:** Available for dedication.

**February 25:** Available for dedication.



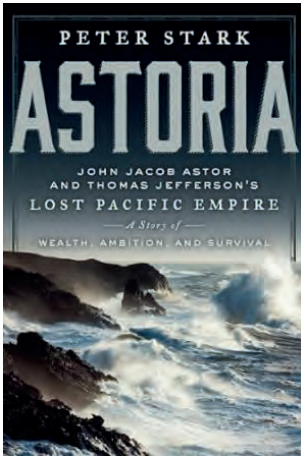
*Want to dedicate flowers in celebration, memory, or honor of a loved one? Sign up in person in the back of the sanctuary or email Deacon Taflin at [TaflinF@christpb.org](mailto:TaflinF@christpb.org) with your preferred date and message.*

*Dedications are \$50 each and can be picked up after worship.*

# CLC MINISTRIES UPDATES

## CLC BOOK GROUP

In September of 2024, Christ Lutheran Church's Book Group will celebrate 30 years of sharing our love of literature. With more than 300 titles in our collective memory, our connections with each other run deep, yet we are always delighted to welcome new minds and voices.



We never meet in the busy month of December; however, members are currently submitting recommendations for next year.

On January 17, we will select our reading list for 2024, alternating between fiction and non-fiction, and we will also discuss *Astoria: John Jacob Astor and Thomas Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire: A Story of Wealth, Ambition, and Survival* by Peter Stark.

Our casual one-hour gatherings take place on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:30 pm at Christ Lutheran's Gathering Place. You are welcome to join us in person or just stealthily check out the plots and ideas that are filling our imaginations each month.

## CHRIST CHURCH WOMEN

Christ Church Women is a unit of the Pacifica Synod Women of the ELCA. We hold bible study groups and also provide memorial receptions. For bible study, we use Gather magazine and have fellowship with women from Christ Lutheran. Our groups are open to all women.

For information on attending either the Joanna or Mary bible study group, volunteering to bake, or helping serve at memorial receptions, please speak with Jo Ann Longerbone or Millie Mealey.



## COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SERVICE AGENCY (CCSA)

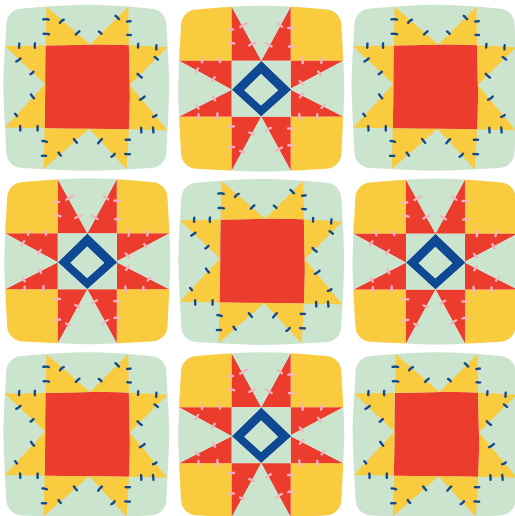


CCSA is providing food and other services to a record number of people of all ages, from the youngest to great-grandparents. Monetary donations are always welcome to help keep our food delivery van, refrigerators, and freezers in working order. Contributions can be made here: [bit.ly/459xiCn](https://bit.ly/459xiCn)

We also need help providing Christmas baskets that contain food for a holiday meal.

For details, please contact Susan Yates, 858-228-0584 or [Susany.sd@gmail.com](mailto:Susany.sd@gmail.com) or [bit.ly/2023\\_CCSA\\_Baskets](https://bit.ly/2023_CCSA_Baskets)

## PRAYERS & SQUARES



Thank you to all of YOU who have tied prayers into our quilts this past year. We hope that the new year will inspire some of you to join us in this special ministry in 2024.

Upcoming workshop:  
Saturday, December 16 at 10:00 AM

Please mark the 3rd SATURDAY of December for a brunch and discussion of 2024 plans to be hosted at Millie's house.

Please welcome our most recently baptized members, Bridget Victoria Regan and John Henry Regan, who were baptized on November 26 with parents Lana and Chris Regan.

*Colors fade, temples crumble, empires fall, but wise words endure. -Edward L. Thorndike*

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## CLC ACTION GROUP UPDATE

### CARE FOR CREATION

#### Some suggestions for your garden...

Fall is the best time to plant, make the most of your private property, and plant for nature. You can attract birds, bees, and butterflies (our important pollinators) to your yard by planting flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees.

#### Top 10 Native Plants to attract wildlife into your garden:

- Bush Monkey Flower
- California Lilac (ceanothus)
- Cleveland Sage (salvia)
- Baccharis (coyote bush)
- Holly Cherry shrub
- Lemonade Berry
- Manzanita
- Scrub Oak
- Toyon

Many plants on this list stay green throughout the year!

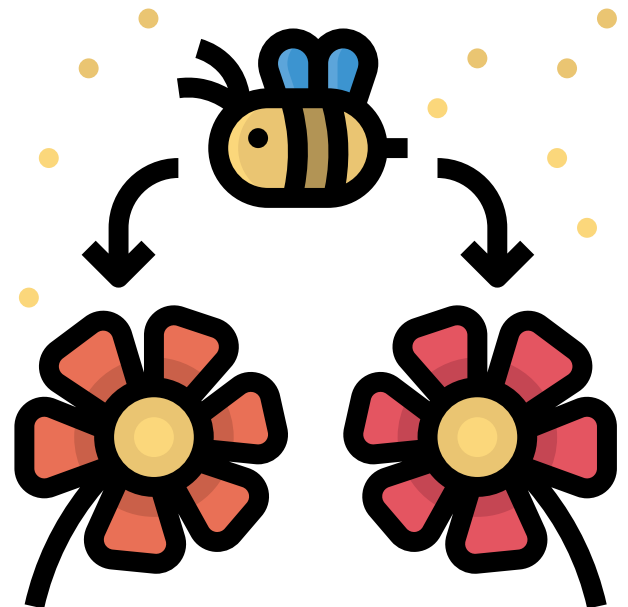
#### Local nurseries that sell native plants:

Green Garden Nursery (Pacific Beach)  
4910 Cass Street

Mission Hills Nursery (Mission Hills)  
1525 Fort Stockton

Walter Anderson Nursery (Sports Arena)  
3642 Enterprise Street

Armstrong Nursery  
1364 Morena Boulevard & 10370 Friars Road







Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church - Pacific Beach  
The Good News  
4761 Cass Street  
San Diego, CA 92109-2604

Change Service Requested



# SAVE THE DATE!

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS TO  
HANG ON YOUR FRIDGE:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
December 10	3:00 PM	Pacificaires Concert
December 17	10:30 AM	Feelin' Festive Cookies & Coffee
December 24	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Family Service
December 24	8:00 PM	Christmas Eve Traditional Service
January 21	4:00 PM	Community Concert
January 28	10:30 AM	2024 Budget Meeting
February 4	10:30 AM	CLC Annual Meeting