



## Take a swing for the future and bid farewell to a faithful old friend on December 5

Join us for a special ceremony to bless the memory of our faithful fellowship hall. It has contained so many memories over the years, it will be sad to see it removed. After the final blessing we will have the opportunity to have a whack at it. We will auction off the first swing and then offer others the chance to use the sledge hammer to say your own good-byes. We will serve a light breakfast during the gathering. It will be the last chance to go behind the green curtain until we are well into the construction process. The new hall will hopefully be ready for Christmas 2022.

### Advent & Christmas Events

**Trimming the Tree** and Sanctuary Decorating: December 4, 9:00 am.

**Posada:** Sunday, December 19  
time: tba.

**Lessons and Carols worship:**  
December 19 at 9:30 am.

**Blue Christmas Service:**  
December 21 at 3 pm.

**Christmas Eve worship in English:**  
December 24 at 6:30 pm and 10:00.  
**Spanish** at 4.30 pm

**Christmas Morning Worship:**  
December 25 at 10:00 am.

**December 26,** Bilingual service at 9:30 am.

**January 2,** English service at 9:30

### Poinsettias and Special Music

As has been our tradition for many years we are accepting gifts to help enhance our Christmas Eve worship.

Our sanctuary will be decorated with a variety of poinsettias, and we will again have harp music to enhance our worship. If you would like to give a gift in memory or honor of a loved one, it will be noted in our worship program. Special forms will be available on the table in the sanctuary entry way or stop by the church office. Dedications will be due by Dec.12. Help make our Christmas worship special.

Senior Pastor:  
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Doolittle  
pastor.jon@clairemontlc.org

Associate Pastor:  
Rev. Cyndi Jones  
pastor.cyndi@clairemontlc.org

Vicar:  
Elena Enriquez  
iglesialuterana@clairemontlc.org

Church Administrator:  
Office: 858-273-7423  
clc@clairemontlc.org

# ***We're literally seeking Posada for Posada this year***

*para Vicar Elena*

Como ustedes ya saben, las Posadas son fiestas populares que se celebran en México durante los nueve días antes de Navidad, que representan los nueve meses de embarazo de María. Estas fiestas conmemoran el peregrinaje de María y José desde su salida de

Nazaret hasta Belén en donde buscan un lugar donde alojarse para esperar el nacimiento del niño Jesús. Se ha vuelto tradición también en Clairemont Lutheran Church/Iglesia Luterana celebrar una

gran posada. Como el viejo Salón Social está por ser derrumbado para construir el nuevo Salón Social, no tendremos en donde hacer la posada este año. ¡Así que decidimos pedir posada! ¡Literalmente! ¡Como María y José nosotros también encontramos quien nos dé posada este año! Nuestra iglesia hermana Northminster Presbyterian Church, que esta solo al cruzar la calle, nos dará "Posada" para hacer nuestra posada. ¡Así que aparten el día 19 de diciembre para este gran evento en donde cantaremos los canticos de navidad, comeremos tamales, posole, buñuelos, pan dulce y también quebraremos las piñatas llenas de dulces no solo para los niños, sino para todas las edades! Bendiciones

*from Vicar Elena*

As you may know, the Posadas (posada means "inn" or "shelter" in Spanish) are a popular festival that are celebrated in Mexico during the nine days before Christmas, representing Mary's nine months of pregnancy. These festivities commemorate the pilgrimage of Mary and

Joseph from their departure from Nazareth to Bethlehem where they look for a place to stay to wait for the birth of Baby Jesus. It has become a tradition also in Clairemont Lutheran



Church/Iglesia Luterana to celebrate one "Posada". As the old Fellowship Hall is about to be demolished to build the new one, we will not have anywhere to make the Posada this year. So, we decided to ask for "Posada"! Literally!

Like Mary and Joseph, we also find who can give us shelter this year! Our sister church Northminster Presbyterian Church, which is only across the street, will give us "Posada" to make our "Posada".

So set aside December 19 for this great event where we will sing the Christmas carols, eat tamales, posole, buñuelos, sweet bread and we will break the piñatas full of candies not just for the children but for all ages!

Blessings

# ***What shall I give? Let your presence be your present***

*from Pastor Cyndi*

I seldom feel great about my gift selections. You know -- it doesn't look quite right on the person, they don't eat candy anymore, someone already got them that gift.

Rarely am I inspired to shout, "Eureka! I found it!" But you know, God modeled gift giving for us. He showed us how to give the best gift -- God gave himself.

Think about it: instead of spending time at the mall or on Amazon, why not give time to your loved ones? Maybe prepare a meal together or share a cup of coffee at their dining room table? What if together you addressed Christmas cards? or baked cookies? or walked on the beach? or whatever your favorite thing to do together is?

The hours of our lives are our most valuable possession. They are irreplaceable and non-refundable.

When you care enough to give the very best, why not follow God's example and give the gift of your presence?

•

**Join us** on December 21st, at 3pm for Blue Christmas, a time to acknowledge our sorrows and be comforted by one another.

•

**In January** on Mondays from 4 to 5:30 pm, on Zoom we'll begin a study on the Gospel reading for the next Sunday. The link will be provided. The Gospel of Luke (New Cambridge Bible Commentary) by



Amy-Jill Levine and Ben Witherington III will be the commentary resource. Let me know if you help obtaining a copy for this study.

•

**On All Saints Day** we honored 22 saints who entered eternal life this past year. Thanks to all who helped to make this day special: Deborah Kegel, banner maker extraordinaire; Aida Jaus created handwritten invitations; Kathy Folmer did a beautiful job with the boutonnieres; June Anderson and her wonderful WELCA crew hosted the reception, and our Sunday School children added a bit of joy with their painted rocks as a reminder that God is with you. Thanks to all who helped make this day special! If you have thoughts on making the day more meaningful or if you'd like to join the All Saints Day Team, let me know.

"When are you here?" Sundays, and Mon through Wed, 12-8 pm. "Here" might mean in the neighborhood, visiting someone on Zoom or in a meeting.

Contact me and we'll find a time!

Blessings!

[Pastor.cyndi@clairemontlc.org](mailto:Pastor.cyndi@clairemontlc.org)



# Church Business



## October Financial Report:

### Income:

**Actual:** \$37,909      YTD: \$434,188      **Budget:** \$40,450      YTD \$ 487,900

### Expenses:

**Actual** \$51,538      YTD: \$424,540      **Budget:** \$46,331      YTD \$448,861

### Raise the Roof

October: \$7,061    YTD \$193,003

Thank you for all your generous gifts to Clairemont Lutheran Church.

## Stock Options and Year-end Giving

As the year comes to a close some of us have the opportunity to give the gift of appreciated shares of stock to the church.

Such a gift can provide you with substantial tax savings as well as benefit the church (consult a tax expert for advice concerning your situation).

CLC/ILC has a broker account with Chase bank to help facilitate stock transfers. If you would like more information please see Pastor Jon.

All gifts received for 2021 must be postmarked or received in the office by December 31.



A special Christmas greeting from all of us. Many prayers from the pastors and staff at Clairemont Lutheran for your joy filled Christmas Season. May you be safe and healthy as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Peace to all.

## Christmas Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and on Monday Dec. 27 in honor of the Christmas holiday.

The office will be open regular business hours on Tuesday through Friday, Dec. 31.

New gifts received before the office closes or in the mail by the 31st will be credited to 2021. Regular office hours resume Tuesday, January 4.

**December 2021**

**The Women of Advent: Drawing strength from our spiritual grandmothers**

*by the Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman*

Advent can be a wonderful mix of emotions: joy, delight and anticipation. Sometimes, however, as we prepare to celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth, we may find ourselves consumed with too many details, and even worse, sorrows of years past.

So, in this time of joyous anticipation and somber reflection, what to do about those mixed emotions? Look to the women of the Bible, especially the strong, bold, outspoken women directly connected to Jesus' birth: Hannah, Mary, Elizabeth and Anna. Collectively they dealt with the death of a son, the death of a spouse, harassment, infertility, fear, anxiety and grief. Think of them as your spiritual grandmothers, your guides in traversing difficult ground. If we ignore their stories, we miss out on a literal host of resources

— and just perhaps, a richer Advent

ALL are invited to attend either of the Gather Bible study groups meeting in December.

**Ruth Gather Bible Study**, Thursday, December 9, 10 a.m., Room 1.

**Patience Gather Bible Study**, Monday, December 13, 12:30 p.m. at the home of Linda Ten Eyck.

**SAVE YOUR CANCELLED STAMPS UPDATE**

Cancelled stamps will now be sent to "Stamps for the Wounded" serving our veterans since 1942. Although they have been around for a while, they are new to us.

Continue to clip stamps from envelopes and packages leaving AT LEAST a quarter inch margin of paper around stamps. Drop them off in the church office, give to Bonnie Jackson or one of the Women of the ELCA board members.

For more information go to their website: [www.stampsforthewounded.org](http://www.stampsforthewounded.org)

**WELCA received \$1,730.00  
for the 2021 Thankoffering.**

The women are grateful for your constant generosity whenever we reach out to you.

The Thankoffering is sent to the women's churchwide organization and is used to support various ministries. A few examples of these are: justice and advocacy work, many online and printed communications channels, and the administration of their grants and scholarship programs. Thank you for making all of that possible.

# Bill & Pat Fredericks: our 50 years at CLC

Our story began in June 1971 when Lisa was born. Pat and I visited several Lutheran churches in our area but we had not yet decided on a church home. The months passed. Lisa was not baptized. We had to make a decision and we chose Clairemont Lutheran Church (CLC). This year, Sunday, December 5th will be exactly 50 years since Lisa was baptized by Pastor Vance and our family became CLC members.

It was Pastor Dick Knutzen who first got us involved. In the mid-70's there were two Sunday morning adult classes. One was a traditional Bible study while the Adult Forum dealt with current events. On Pastor Dick's last Sunday he and I were walking together on our way to the Adult Forum. I asked him who would lead the class after he left. He said, "Oh, someone will step up." At the end of the class Pastor Dick announced to the group that Bill Fredericks had volunteered to lead the class.

Pastor Vern recruited me to be treasurer of the Education Committee. (Bob and Opal Boss were part of that committee. Bob actually owned and studied the works of Josephus.) Pr. Vern led a Gospel of John class that that was supposed to last 6 weeks but actually lasted 6 months. He says it affected his whole ministry because he learned that lay people were willing to study the Bible 'in depth'.

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of CLC there was a fund raising campaign, \$30K for 30Years. A poll was taken to determine where the congregation wanted to spend the funds raised. Pastor Vance remarked that he had to



preach a sermon explaining the need to modernize the bathrooms at the end of the Fellowship Hall.

Gene Holtz was pastor when the Education committee planned several Sunday school retreats at the Girl Scout camp near Julian. After the dinner dishes were washed and put away everyone gathered around the campfire and we patted our knees while Grace led us on a 'Bear Hunt'. There were annual family retreats led by Pr. Ev Nielsen (who was then Assistant to the Bishop) and also by Bishop Murray Finck. Another story that Pr. Gene tells is this; One day a young woman from the neighborhood stopped by his office and asked, "Can this be our family's church?" Thus was born a church that today worships in English

*Continued on Page 7*

and in Spanish. That church CLC/ILC has spawned two Spanish language pastors.

Pastors Brian Taylor and David Jorstad were called to assist Pr. Gene. Pastor Brian was a trained Stephen Minister and it was during that time that the CLC Stephen Minister program was born. When Pr. Gene accepted a call to serve another congregation, Pastor Ev was called as Senior Pastor. During his tenure the Evangelism Committee spent a year studying with a team of church growth consultants. Pr. Ev led several retreats including one at which we focused on the 'Sacraments', including foot washing (a part of my Church of the Brethren heritage).

Pr. Ev retired and Pastor David was called to be senior Pastor. I was honored to serve on the committee that called Pr. Jon to serve as Associate Pastor. As the committee met to select from the three candidates I felt the very presence of the

Holy Spirit there guiding us. Eight years later Pr. David accepted a call to San Marcos Lutheran and we called Pr. Jon to be our senior Pastor. Pr. Jon led CLC as we came to envision a new Fellowship Hall. A little over a year ago we called Pr. Cyndi Jones as Associate Pastor who helps us understand the needs of our neighbors.

Over the years we made many friends. There were CLC camping weekends, where everyone was served the (consecrated) communion elements around a Sunday morning campfire. There were Bible study programs, Dinners 4/8, Heritage dinners, Talent shows, Thursday night dinners, Picnics at the Beach, Small Group ministries, Stephen Ministry and now the mid-month Bible study. So here we are today.

It's been a very good 50 years and we are blessed. Please celebrate with us!

## **Mid-month Bible study continues in December and into 2022**

Every year I display my Crèche for the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons. I carefully place the Holy family by the manger, the shepherds, the angels, the wise men and the animals in their accustomed places. Then I spend the seasons in wonderment over the birth of God's Holy child. I'm sure you do much the same thing.

But wait, does my Crèche really tell the story of Jesus' birth as Mathew and Luke tell it? Join us and find out.

In November we studied the birth narrative as presented in Matthew. We learned that Jesus was about 2 years old when the Holy family was visited by the (Gentile) wisemen in their house in

Bethlehem. We learned that Joseph, Mary and Jesus escaped King Herod's wrath by escaping to Egypt. And also when they returned from Egypt the family relocated to Nazareth.

On Wednesday, Dec.15 we will study the Birth of the Messiah as presented by Luke. This is the version with the census, the manger, the shepherds and the annunciation by the heavenly host. We will also meet on Sunday, Dec.12 (Matthew) and Sunday, Dec.19 (Luke) for another chance to study the birth narratives. We will gather at 10:30 in room 1 of Luther hall. To prepare please read Ch. 1 & 2. Please bring your Bible.



STEPHEN  
MINISTRY

## Celebrating a Blue Christmas

*From Ruth Andersen*

Advent is the busy time of shopping, baking, and festive gatherings as we prepare for Christmas, the gift of Jesus. Often we wish for a covering of snow for a white Christmas.

However have you heard of a blue Christmas? It is a Western Christian tradition celebrated on the winter solstice - 21st of December - the shortest day and longest night of the year. It is dark longer than it is light in the Northern Hemisphere. It is celebrated especially for anybody who has experienced a loss-loved one, job, home, pet, auto, income, friendship, etc. The grief is expressed through prayers and lighting of candles; it is a healing service for the grieving. **Celebrate this service with us at 3 PM on December 21 in the Sanctuary.**



Every good gift and  
every perfect gift  
is from above.

-- James 1:17

Dated Material -- Please Do Not Delay

Return Service Requested

4271 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92117-2795

Clairemont  
Lutheran Church  
Iglesia Luterana



*The Clarion*

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 160