



Focus on Christ

February 28, 2010

“Come turn my heart, O God.”

Each Lent we hear the phrase “return with all your heart”. What places in my heart have turned away from God? What does it mean to “return”? Re-turning indicates that I have been there, that I am making a shift, turning around and heading there again. I cannot re-turn to a place where I have not already been. We can find comfort in this because we know that if we go to the very depths of our being, we belong totally to God. Some places of my heart have strayed and lost their way, but I know they can return to God. Lent is a time to go looking for those places. Lent is also a time to remember that God’s invitation stands forever. Always God waits for us to return with all our heart.

Thank you, loving God, for the challenging invitation to re-turn to you with my entire being.

–Pastor Sharon

Christ Lutheran Church

A Christ-caring
community

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Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*
Let's thrive:

Last week a meeting for the Contra Costa Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans was held here at CLC.

This was one of the monthly board meetings held at different locations. Okay, nice, thank you, but what does this have to do with CLC you may ask? Let me back up a bit to catch us all up on the history first.

Thrivent is a fraternal benefits group formed from what was once Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association for Lutherans. These groups were created to provide some security for widows and children of farmers, and, as time went on, the groups grew to market various kinds of insurance and financial products to all people, returning profits to the community at large. Now as Thrivent, the work still continues here and abroad. Thrivent is a special kind of financial institution with an eye toward promoting Christ's love for us and his commandment to love and care for one another.

Our congregation has been helped financially by Thrivent. We have put in the work of refurbishing the sanctuary garden, and Thrivent provided the funds to cover the costs of materials and some needed professional labor. We have put in the work to make sandwiches for Souper Center, and Thrivent has provided the funds for the groceries and supplies for this as well. How much? Well in just the last year, the cost of sandwiches and the Christmas meal was \$1,036.28. Thrivent provided \$1,000 of that cost so we could continue with the mission of helping to feed the homeless without much financial burden to ourselves. Another CLC related program that Thrivent has helped support is West County's Read Aloud program which focuses on helping children in West County schools achieve reading skills and earn a book of their very own just by learning to read it.

I have volunteered with Thrivent as a board member, and now as the CLC Congregational Advocate to help congregations like ours plan and execute community fundraisers and hands-on service activities for quilters, preschools, youth groups, Habitat for Humanity, and congregations in our chapter. This year Thrivent has made some changes in how the two main funding plans work and they are putting the emphasis of responsibility on the Thrivent members themselves. I will be communicating more regularly with the congregation and the steering team about what Thrivent is doing and what the Thrivent members need for the funding to continue. It's my hope that this will help us to better plan our fund raising needs and secure more financial support for building improvements and community projects we'd like to be part of.

What if you're not a Thrivent member? It doesn't matter. Your volunteerism and caring is all that is required to help us continue on CLCs mission to live and share the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ with all people.

–Bertha Rohrbach



Asante Presentation

Please join us on
Monday, March 1
CLC Fellowship Hall
(10:30 AM - 12:30 PM).

The Senior Center is joining with the Berkeley Retired Teachers' Association to host the Asante Network. This organization helps African women in 4 countries market their beautiful handcrafted items.

ALL proceeds go to the women.

The weeks to come

Mon., Mar. 1	9 AM – 2 PM	Senior Center
	4:30 PM	Cub Scouts
	7 PM	Yoga
Tues., Mar. 2	3:30 PM	Vale Service
	4:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM	Worship/Music
	7 PM	AA meeting
Wed., Mar. 3	5:30 PM	WOW
	6 PM	Meal
	6:30 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	Lenten Worship
	8 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sat., Mar. 6	8 AM	Men's Breakfast
	9 AM	Yoga
	6 PM	AA Meeting
Sun., Mar. 7	8:45 AM	Adult Forum
	10 AM	Worship Service
	7 PM	Al-Anon
Mon., Mar. 8	9 AM – 2 PM	Senior Center
	7 PM	Yoga
Tues., Mar. 9	3:30 PM	Vale Service
	7 PM	AA meeting
Wed., Mar. 10	6:30 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	Lenten Worship
	8 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., Mar. 11	11:30 AM	Lunch Bunch
Sat., Mar. 13	9 AM	Yoga
	6 PM	AA meeting
Sun., Mar. 14	8:45 AM	Adult Forum
	10 AM	Worship Service
	7 PM	Al-Anon

Financial update as of 02/21/2010

General: actual \$25,735, needed \$24,063

HARP: actual \$850, needed \$1,477

Our own 'Athlete of the Week'

Michael Tiekus was chosen as one of the 'Athletes of the Week' for soccer. In addition, Michael is third in the nation in number of points scored per game and number of goals per game. Michael will be off to Chico State following graduation. Way to go, Michael! Congratulations to his parents as well who have encouraged and supported Michael in his soccer events.



CLC celebrates YOU...

Mar. 2 Jan O'Connell

Mar. 8 Jenny Peters / Judy Streets

Mar. 9 Shannon Lubkeman / Joel Quiros / Michael Eckert

Mar. 13 Bob Soranno / LeeAnn Odle

Mar. 15 Audrey Osman



Congratulations Telyea Family



Please welcome Noah Charles born to Wes and Emilee Telyea. He joined their family on Feb. 12, weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 21 inches in length.

Monthly Financial Reports

All are welcome to review the monthly financial reports and other council reports available in a notebook in the Secretaries Box. It will be clearly marked for you to read. *(Simply Giving is the program that allows you to make electronic contributions from your bank account to the church. We currently have 8 families participating in this program. This saves you from having to write checks, and makes life easier for the financial team. Please contact Amy Tiekus to sign up. If you are already signed up and would like to change your contribution, Amy can do that for you quickly and without any paperwork.)*

Property Report Update

The recent rain has helped us to learn where the needs are in the building. Randy Mayer and crew had to wait for some dry days before they could fix many of these problem areas. The outside stair landing and overhang at the far end of the building has been fixed, weather stripping was replaced on the door at the top of the stairs as well as the door on the bottom level leading out to the back patio. A new exit door has replaced the old door leading into the Crossings and the door mechanisms on all the doors have been repaired and are now in better working order. We had a roofer look at the probable cause of the recent leaks in the Crossings. Once the rain has let up enough and the roof is dry, new flashing will be installed. In order to finance these unexpected and un-budgeted expenses, the Steering Team is planning a couple of FUN fundraisers. More to come!

Spring Cleaning is coming – March 22-27

It is that time of year when we want to prepare our church for Easter by attending to certain areas that really need some loving attention and elbow grease. See the list posted in the Fellowship Hall of chores that need to be done and find one that suits your time and abilities. You may come anytime during the week if that is more convenient for you than the Saturday Workday on the 27th. The Saturday session will begin at 9:30 AM. Bring your rags, polish and energy. Refreshments and coffee will be available to keep the troops energized.

Upcoming for Lent & Holy Week

- **Lenten services**, 7:30 PM, every Wednesday through March 24.
- **WOW** meets March 3 and 17, 5:30 PM with a meal following.

• **HOLY WEEK: March 28 – April 3:**

Thurs., April 1 – Maundy Thursday includes a shared meal at 6:30 PM followed by Worship with communion and footwashing, 7:30 PM

Fri., April 2 – Good Friday services: 1:00 PM with communion, & 7 PM

Sat. April 3 – Stations of the cross, 8 AM – 5 PM; Easter Vigil at Sundown.