



First of the Month @ CLC

August 1, 2022

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,

I am so excited to share with you news and information about your church. Christ Lutheran Church is an amazing congregation, and I am honored to be its pastor. Our folks are some of the most giving, serving, and loving people you will ever meet!

As you have heard (via worship announcements and *Bagels with the Board*), we have been concerned about our financial picture. The good news is that our non-designated income for June was \$78,595; that is the second highest amount ever given in June at CLC! Many thanks for your willingness to step up and out in faith. While we continue to ask our members to be diligent in their financial support of their church, this past month was encouraging.

If you were in worship this past Sunday you saw the new grand piano in the sanctuary. Thank you to Paul Delgado for arranging its purchase, and for finding a home at a local church for our previous piano. This new piano was purchased with Celebration of Life gifts given in memory of Jan and Ed Zisko. I think they would like what we have done!

Speaking of Celebration of Life gifts, multiple gifts (from the accounts of Dick Carlson, Susan Decker, John Delgado, Charlene Engelsgaard, Lois Fish, Dixie Hover, Ruth Johnson, Irma Milano, Nola Sherman, Tom Smith, Tanya Sperling, and Dorothy Taylor) have been tapped to provide outdoor security cameras for the church. Unfortunately we are living in a time when the church campus is not considered a sacred place by some. It is not unusual to have undesirable guests come on our campus, especially at night. We are hopeful that such cameras will be a deterrent for any illicit activity.

We began this past month asking for folks to sign up for one of our seven Sunday worship teams. We are building up our greeters, ushers, stroll patrol, communion servers, altar guild, coffee maker teams and lectors. Some of you have been serving on one (or more) of these teams for a while. This is your chance to make sure you would like to continue. Others may wish to give any one of these important teams a try. On **Sunday, August 21 and 28, at 10:35**, four teams (greeters, ushers, stroll patrol and altar guild) will meet in different places on campus for a brief training event. This will be a very important training even for those who have

been serving on a team in the past; new and updated information will be shared. Contact Lauren Chambers (lauren@clcvisalia.org) and let her know your interest to serve!

August 21st will be a very special Sunday. First of all, it is Rally Sunday. This is the kick-off of our 2022-23 education events for pre-k through college. So, Sunday school, Deeper, Relate, and Confirmation classes will begin meeting. The events on the 21st include bounce houses, games, and snacks for the elementary-age kids, and an eating contest for Deeper! Noel has built a strong team of teachers and mentors; we will be praying for them specifically at the 8:00 worship service. Parents of Confirmation students should plan to attend the Parents' meeting on **August 24** (7-8 grade parents at 6:00; 9th grade parents at 6:30). In addition to Rally Day events, there will be a special preacher on that Sunday – recent high school graduate, Evan Judson! I am sure you are excited as I am to hear Evan on that day. He (like all our recent graduates) is a wonderful person of faith.

CLIPArts will start their fall program on Monday, **August 15**. This two-day a week, after school performing arts ministry will touch the lives of dozens of kids in our community. Please pray for the success of this outreach.

The first day of the fall semester for ChristKids Preschool is **August 8**. As we begin our 23rd year of ChristKids we face new challenges with the California State Preschool Program. Our director, Denise Egge, her staff, and the advisory board will do everything in their power to promote the value of a Christian-based preschool option. Please also pray for a successful and safe school year for ChristKids.

The Transition Team is hard at work preparing for a series of group and individual meetings with our consultants on **August 21-24**. These conversations will assist the consultants to know who we are at CLC in a more precise way, which will lead them to narrow the scope of the search process for our next pastor. If you would like to be added to one of the groups meeting with the consultants, please call the church office and let us know.

At the Church Board meeting in August a Call Committee will begin to be built. Watch for more information about this in my next "First of the Month" letter.

And finally, perhaps the most critical information I share with you is the designation of September as "A Call to Prayer." I am sure many in the congregation have been in prayer regarding our pastoral leadership transition. Beginning **September 1**, and for the whole month, we are asking the entire congregation to devote themselves to daily prayer, asking for God to guide the process we have started. For those who are on our eBlast list, each day you will receive an email with a Bible passage, a prayer, and an idea to do a prayer activity. In addition, each Sunday our "prayers of the community" will focus heavily upon the transition process. We simply cannot go into a pastoral transition of leadership without being in conversation with God and depending on God for direction.

May God continue to lead and bless us.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Brian Malison