



Community News

January 2022

30322 Via Con Dios
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DID YOU KNOW? The Sundays after Epiphany are known as a **season of light!**

Why tho? Well, **Epiphany** itself is celebrated on January 6 and signals the end of **Christmas** by celebrating the arrival of the magi who followed a bright star. Then, the Sundays after the Epiphany detail **the revelation of Jesus' light to the world** by telling the stories of his baptism, his first miracles, and many of his key teachings.

Epiphany is a story that speaks to the very essence of the gospel and it's redemption, for Epiphany has to do with the extension of salvation not just to the Jews but to the Gentiles (something that is very important to us). In the early church, Epiphany was a major celebration, more important than even Christmas or the "birth of Christ" and ranking second only to Easter, because Epiphany demonstrates the "manifestation" of God's salvation clearly.

The word "epiphany" means "manifestation" and refers in particular to the manifestation of Jesus as Savior not only of the Jews, but of all the peoples of the world. The readings in this season describe three "manifestations" of Jesus that we celebrate in this season.

The first of these is the visit of the Magi, which **we celebrate** on January 6 (*or the Sunday nearest, which in 2022 is January 9th*).

The second of the "manifestations" is the story of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptizer, when God manifests God's self to the world with the sign of the Holy Spirit (the dove) and the voice from heaven like thunder, saying "This is my beloved Son, and my Son brings me great Joy." John proclaims (and God confirms) that Jesus is God's Son, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the Anointed One (in the Greek, *Messiah*). **We celebrate the baptism of Jesus on January 16.**

The third "manifestation" is **celebrated on Transfiguration Sunday, February 27.**

The story of transfiguration Sunday is a miraculous experience of Peter, James and John, as they are on the mountain with Jesus, and they see him "trans-figured" before them. As this miraculous event occurs, once again they hear a voice from heaven, "This is my Beloved Son! Listen to Him!" The Transfiguration is when "light" goes from being a metaphor to being literal. In the story, Jesus amazes and confuses his disciples on a mountaintop when his clothes "become as bright as a flash of lightning" and Moses and Elijah appear in the dazzling light with him.

NOVEMBER 2021



	2021 YTD <u>ACTUAL</u>	2021 YTD <u>BUDGET</u>
Receipts—Offerings	\$361,218	\$386,316
Net Receipts—Preschool	102,119	94,828
Receipts—Other	<u>7,386</u>	<u>2,200</u>
Total Receipts	\$470,723	\$483,344
Total Operating Expenditures (Non-Preschool)	(452,729)	(475,521)
Excess Receipts over Expenditures (Net Operating Income)	<u>\$ 17,994</u>	<u>\$ 7,823</u>

Offerings	
Charitable Grants	\$2,935
Non-EFT Offerings	\$14,018
Thanksgiving Offering	210
EFT Offerings	\$11,243
Total	\$28,406

Liquid assets available to meet expenses totaled \$54,533 on 11/30/2021 (excludes dedicated funds).

Offering income was \$3,578 less than budgeted for November and is \$25,098 less than budgeted YTD.

Preschool net income was \$3,626 more than budgeted for November and is \$7,291 more than budgeted YTD.

As of December 1, 116 students are enrolled.

Other Receipts included specified gifts of \$43 for the Facility Maintenance Fund, \$325 for the Food Bank, \$25 for Siloé, \$100 for Door of Faith, \$500 for Youth Ministries, \$50 for Good Samaritan Fund, and \$350 for Day of Service Fund.

Non-Preschool Operating Expenses were \$7,503 less than budgeted for November (mostly in the Professional, Worship, and Facility categories) and are \$7,291 less than budgeted YTD. All expense categories were less than budgeted for the month or within \$300 of budget except:

Administrative Administrative expenses were \$357 greater than budgeted. Administrative Assistant payroll was greater than budgeted, as Julie worked extra hours to prepare for her planned vacation.

Detailed information is available upon request from Tracy Cantin (treasurerclcrsm@gmail.com)

How Can I Give to Community Lutheran Church?

1. You can write a check and mail it to us (Community Lutheran Church, 30322 Via Con Dios, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688).
2. You can give online through the website, clcrsm.org. There is a link at the top of the page that says, "Give Online". You can do a one-time donation or setup a recurring donation.
3. You can give using the new app Vanco Mobile. To start using the app, download for free from the App Store or Google Play. The first time you use it:
 - a. Search for our Church
 - b. Select your Fund and Amount—you can do one-time donations or recurring ones
 - c. Enter Payment Method
 - d. Complete your donation.
4. You can text an offering donation to 855-949-0112. The first time you do this you will get a text back prompting you to enter your name and credit card number.
5. You can do a Zelle transfer through your online banking website. When adding the church as a payee, just enter our email address: clcrsm@clcrsm.org

If you need any help with your online giving, please contact Tracy at treasurerclcrsm@gmail.com

Amazon Smile: The church has registered on Amazon Smile. This is a great program where Amazon shoppers can designate any registered charity to receive .5% of their qualified purchases as a donation. To participate in this program, just go to www.smile.amazon.com to sign up and choose Community Lutheran Church as your designated charity.

Schwab Account: The church has a Schwab brokerage account. This way members can donate shares of stock as an alternative to cash offerings. Not only can you help the church, you can avoid paying capital gains tax on appreciated stocks.

Church Council President's Report

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
Romans 15:13

Happy New Year to all from your Church Council!

We've just celebrated our second Christmas during the pandemic. Who knows what our next Christmas will be like? When will this pandemic be over? No one really knows what the future has in store. It's hard to have hope, when everything around us seems to be in a state of chaos.

So much has changed this past year. We have begun the call process for new Pastoral Leadership as well as a new music leadership. We've also begun the process into transferring Tracy Cantin's duties as treasurer into new hands. Combine this with all the ministries that have continued nonstop, you can imagine it's been a very busy and unusual year.

I added the verse from Paul's letter to the Romans because it perfectly articulates my hopes and prayers for our future. First, we are very fortunate and blessed to have our Interim Pastor Steve Awbrey. He is a fantastic addition and fits seamlessly into the culture of our church family. The Church Council, the Preschool Staff, Preschool Board and the many volunteers who keeps this church growing have continued to channel the Holy Spirit in their tireless efforts. Amidst everything we have gone through, Hope abounds in our family of Christ.

I encourage you to read through each of the committee reports of the annual report to learn about all of the ways your hands and prayers have and will continue to do God's work.

As we move into the New Year your Council, in partnership with Pastor Steve, Transition Team, Pastoral Call Committee and Josiah, we will continue to thoughtfully steward our church resources wisely while we strive to support and grow our ministries. We will be vigilant in making sure that in-person worship and our will remain as safe as possible. We will continue to pray for God's guidance for the physical and spiritual health of our Congregation and community.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for your prayers and generous donations of your time, talent and resources for the work of our Lord and Savior.

Have hope and trust in God!

Peter Mowery
CLC Council President



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 30th

Following 10 AM Worship (One Service Only That Day)

Please join us as we vote to approve our 2022 Annual Budget.

CLC Youth and Family Ministries



Sunday School (3 Years Old -6th Grade) 9:40 AM-10:20 AM

Sunday school will resume on January 16.



(5th and 6th Grades)

January 20th
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

High School (9th-12th Grades) Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 PM

HS youth group meets weekly on Wednesdays.





The CLC Book Club is scheduled to meet on Monday, January 10th at 6:30pm in the CLC Sanctuary.

When the Book Club meets this month, we will be discussing **Sunflower Sisters** by Martha Hall Kelly. This saga set during the Civil War introduces us to three women from different walks of life, a nurse from the north, a young slave and the wife of a southern plantation owner. Each of these women are navigating the atrocities of the time.

Upcoming Books:

February 14	<u>The Keeper of Happy Endings</u>	by Barbara Davis
March 14	<u>Hidden Secrets at the Little Village Church</u>	by Tracy Rees
April 11	<u>The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane</u>	by Lisa See
May 9	<u>The Last Thing He Told Me</u>	by Laura Dave

We invite anyone who has read these books to join us for some lively conversation. The CLC Book Club reads a wide variety of books and welcomes all readers along with book suggestions. Please contact Julie Draper or a member of the Book Club for more information.



Prayer Ministry

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance.

Romans 8:26-27

If you have a prayer request please contact Kathy Anderson. Requests are sent by email to the prayer ministry team, kept confidential, and can be sent out anonymously.

If you believe in the strength of a simple prayer, please join us in this humbling ministry.

Please contact Kathy Anderson at
kathyquilter1217@gmail.com



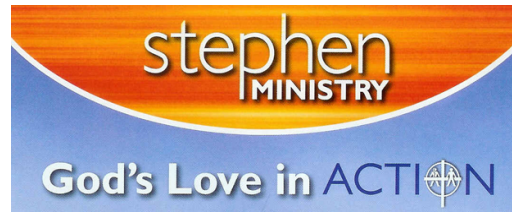
LWR QUILTING MINISTRY

January 3: 9 AM -12 PM and 6 PM – 8PM
January 17: 9 AM -12 PM and 6 PM – 8PM

We meet in the sanctuary to sandwich and tie quilts.

We NEED volunteers to sew tops and to do binding. I would be happy to teach you how to do this. All you need is a sewing machine!

Contact Kathy Anderson @ 970.776.9074



WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY ALL ABOUT?

Here's what people say about Stephen Ministry: "I had never been able to open up to someone before and had always kept my feelings to myself. My Stephen Minister helped me to talk about the painful things, which opened the door for God's healing." "All I can say is thank you. I was so overwhelmed I didn't know where to begin. My Stephen Minister helped me sort through my challenges and regain my faith in God." "I was able to tell my Stephen Minister things I could never have told a friend. She never judged me or looked down on me. She just listened and cared. It was just what I needed."

A Stephen Minister is a listening, caring, confidential person who can walk through tough times with you. Jesus calls us into community so we can worship together and also find strength from one another. We are commanded to love and care for each other as an extension of God's love for us. All you need to do to find this care and support is to call Pastor Steve, Josiah or one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders (Pat Weber, Gay Chessell, Kevin Peterson or Brent Anderson).



Thank you all for your generous Christmas cards, gifts, and goodies that you provided this year! Your gifts give us significant evidence of your care for us and CLC. Blessings to each of you in 2022.

Sincerely,

Pastor Steve, Josiah Canto, Julie Mortenson, Julie Draper, and Tracy Cantin.



Big Thanks To All Who Were Caught Serving in December!

- Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary and the church campus for Christmas.
- Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped to make our Christmas Season worship services possible.
- Thank you for everyone's generosity throughout the past year.

Celebrating January Birthdays

Tahni Blume	1/2	Judy Trombley	1/10
Karen Funkhouser	1/2	John Wagener	1/11
Staci Nathanson	1/2	J.J. Stout-Harris	1/12
Adrian Clark	1/3	Stephanie Franich	1/13
Jerry Parker	1/3	Hanna Bevan	1/14
Susan Dotson	1/3	Danny Magazzu	1/16
Jerry Parker	1/3	Brady Yang	1/17
Randy Kniffin	1/3	Kate Donaldson	1/19
Hannah Kolenicka	1/4	Steven Krouse	1/21
Loren Rhoton	1/4	Riley Rose Perez	1/21
Lyndsey Haapala	1/5	Dale Funkhouser	1/22
Parker Lewis	1/5	Conrad Giloff	1/24
James Reideler	1/5	Jim Krouse	1/24
Jennifer Crum	1/6	Christy Ziemer	1/24
Noah Donaldson	1/6	Keeley Iserman	1/25
Brad Engelbrecht	1/7	Virginia Heeren	1/27
Gisela Branch	1/9	John Sullivan	1/30
Bill Brummel	1/10	Matthew Lundin	1/31
Ellen Tewell	1/10	Savannah Paxton	1/31

