



JANUARY 2021



COASTSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Half Moon Bay

And God said, “Rebuild My Church...”

“Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

– St. Francis of Assisi

Giovanni “Francesco” Bernardino (aka St. Francis) was born into wealth and privilege. As a young man, he sought honor and fame by becoming a knight but instead found suffering and illness when he was captured and held as a prisoner of war. Disillusioned, Francis sought a new meaning and purpose for his life. One day while wandering the hillsides around his home town of Assisi, he came upon San Damiano, a neglected little church in desperate need of repair. As he knelt before the cross and prayed, he heard Jesus say to him, 'Francis, go and repair my house which, as you see, is falling into ruin.' Initially, Francis obeyed the command by repairing the buildings of San Damiano and several other local churches that had fallen into disrepair. Over time however, Francis came to understand that God’s call to him to ‘rebuild the church’ was much more significant and had much broader sweeping consequences than simply repairing roofs and walls; the call was to breathe new life into *the* church by reinvigorating the faith of God’s people. His call was to show the life of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of God to every person and to every part of Creation.



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Here at Coastsides Lutheran Church, we too have been hearing God’s call to “rebuild my church.” During the three years that I have been part of this community, we have wrestled and debated over how best to use the generous donations that had been made to the West Wing fund. Much of our conversation centered on the question of what ministry God was calling us to use this space for. Even before the pandemic hit, the council had begun to discern that, just like Francis, the call to ‘rebuild God’s church’ was broader and deeper than renovating our fellowship hall. We realized that we were being asked to do something far more impactful and exciting; we were being asked to revitalize our congregation. At December’s congregational meeting, we took our first concrete step in answering that call when we voted to contract with the Joshua Group and engage with consultant Kristin Wiersma to begin the process of discernment and the rebuilding of CLC.

I believe that this point in history, when our society is grappling with deep social and spiritual questions at the same time it is reconstructing our post-pandemic 'new normal,' is the perfect time for Coastside Lutheran to be embarking on this task of revitalization; to be asking the questions of Where is God calling us into ministry next? Who is God calling us to serve now? How is God calling us to worship in our new reality? The world we are entering into post-pandemic will not look the same as the one we left behind.

We will begin in January with the formation of a team of CLC members and friends who will work with Kristin to lead us in this process. In February, after the team is trained, all of us will jump into the work in earnest. Kirsten and the Joshua Group will help us through this discernment and rebuilding but the work is ours to do since this ministry has been entrusted to us. It will be important for all of us to participate and make our voices known so that the CLC which results from this work reflects who we are together as a community, where our passions lie, and who we are being called to be. I am very grateful to have been called as your pastor and am very excited about embarking on this journey of discernment and revitalization with you. I know that this congregation is up to the task and I cannot wait to see where the Spirit is leading us.

-Pastor Sue



Thank You for the Christmas Gift



Thank you dear Coastside family and friends for the thoughtful Christmas gift. I am always blown away by the generosity and kindness of this congregation.

Blessings to you all.

Pastor Sue

Council Highlights & Announcement of Annual Congregational Meeting

Dear CLC members and friends,

As we turn the page on 2020, it's exciting to look ahead to a new chapter at CLC! We were joined by Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop Mark Holmerud at our December 6th online congregational meeting, where we approved a call to Pastor Sue Holland to serve as ³/₄-time pastor beginning January 1, 2021 (following Pastor Dawn's retirement), with the option to expand to a full-time role upon mutual agreement. We approved a deficit budget for 2021, recognizing that rental income will be limited. We also approved a plan to rethink our West Wing dedicated fund. While a portion of this is being used for facility improvements, we will also use a portion to finance a "congregational rebuilding" effort, with plans to begin early in the new year. Finally, we elected council members as well as audit committee and nominating committee.

At our December council meeting, we focused on preparations for the upcoming congregational meeting (see below), and reviewed the status of personnel and facility contracts. We also agreed to a plan for managing the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic at CLC, based on discussions with the COVID response team: (i) our facility remains formally closed to the public; (ii) no more than one person (or 1 family unit) should work within each area of the church at the same time (e.g., office, or WW); (iii) no outdoor events of more than 1 family unit (2 if already in a social bubble); (iv) we will inform pastor and volunteers of plans to be at the church in order to avoid contact. As a post-meeting note, San Mateo County is now in the state "purple tier" with added stay-at-home restrictions, based on low hospital ICU capacity, currently hovering around 10%. We continue to believe it is in the best interests of our members, staff, and community to minimize physical contact and continue events online. The next council meeting is on January 20th, 6:45 pm. Council meetings are always open; please contact hblowman@comcast.net for details.

Looking ahead, I invite you to the **online** annual congregational meeting of Coastside Lutheran Church on **January 31, 2021 at 11:15 AM, via Zoom (see agenda for details)**, to kick off our congregational rebuilding effort with the Joshua Group, review annual reports, and conduct additional business as listed. Please see the attached agenda and additional information below. While all members and friends are invited to attend this meeting, per our constitution, voting is limited to "voting members."

Introduction of the Joshua Group

Kristin Wiersma, consultant with the Joshua Group, will join us for a preview of the process for our congregational rebuilding plan.

Annual reports

Annual reports will be distributed ahead of time and briefly reviewed during the meeting. Those writing reports are asked to provide them to the church office by January 15th.

Update of the CLC constitution

Following congregational approval of updates to the CLC constitution in September 2020, the Sierra Pacific Synod requested additional updates to complete the process of bringing our constitution in line with the ELCA model constitution. These are redlined in the attached copy. The CLC council recommends adoption of these additional updates.

Election of synod assembly representative

Carryover from the December meeting: The next Sierra Pacific Synod's Assembly will take place in May 2021, either in Burlingame or online, depending on pandemic conditions, and will include election of a new synod bishop. Leah Frautschy and Walter Rau have volunteered to be CLC's two designated representatives, with Suzanne Bruce and Mark Loos as alternates.

Happy New Year! See you at the online meeting.

Sincerely,

Henry Lowman
CLC Council President

Worship Continues Online!

Online Worship Sundays @ 10AM

Log- on to Zoom every Sunday morning at 10am to worship together, or view at any time from our website or Facebook page. Online fellowship follows worship on Zoom for anyone who wants to join in. Let us know if you have a birthday or anniversary coming up so we can celebrate!

The Zoom link for both worship and fellowship is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84381518830?pwd=aVdLbXBkWWNiTHJFYUVWc1JsOGhuQT09>

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128 **Meeting ID:** 843 8151 8830

Password: 656832



Come Celebrate Pastor Sue's Installation



Join us online **Saturday, January 23rd at 10 am** for Pastor Sue's installation as our pastor!

We will be using our usual worship Zoom link, see above.

Friday Lunches for those in need through Abundant Grace

When Abundant Grace told us they needed someone to provide 25 lunches on Fridays, our congregation stepped up! It's the care made known for those in need in the midst of this pandemic that brightens the soul and our communities! It is an honor to walk with you. **THANK YOU!!**

WHAT'S NEEDED: Donations of cheese and meat for the sandwiches or funds to offset cost of these items. Packaged cookies would be fun too. If you'd like to contribute or to help make sandwiches, please contact Marian: melacey@pacbell.net.

Dear Friends in Christ

Brenda Shields wants to share that she is enjoying participating in a new letter exchange ministry being run by the Women of the ELCA. This new ministry is called "Dear Friends in Christ." Anyone interested in making a new connection via letter writing can send a "Dear Friend in Christ" introductory letter to



W-ELCA headquarters. The folks at WELCA will match you up with another person living somewhere in the US and forward you letter to get the ball rolling. Brenda has met two interesting people with whom she is now corresponding and is enjoying writing and receiving letters. If you would like more information, Brenda would be happy to talk to you about her experience or you can visit this website: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/special-initiatives/dear-friend-christ>.

Upcoming Events



Women's Daytime Gathering: **Second Tuesday of the Month, 2 PM**

Every month we gather for fellowship, support, and the sharing of articles from *Gather* (available online or hard copies at the church). We laugh and listen together, sharing openly our questions, observations, and stories. You can participate in one or multiple sessions. If you have any questions or would like a magazine, email or call the office or Pastor Sue. The theme focus for January is Journeys with Angels.

Tuesday, January 8 @ 2 pm via Zoom: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85211109648?pwd=QU9CNXhrcThUSXZvMzV4ZjhHeDRUZzo9>

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128 | **Meeting ID:** 852 1110 9648 | **Passcode:** 150680

Diverse Stories: Fourth Thursday of the Month, 12 noon

January book suggestion is *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett.
Thank you Marian for this suggestion!

This is Ann Patchett's latest novel. She is one of my favorite authors, and I thought that a book that is just a good story, something to get your teeth into, might be the ticket for the end of a dark year. Here's a short explanation of the theme, extrapolated from the dust jacket:

"Set over the course of 5 decades, *The Dutch House* is a dark fairy tale about siblings who cannot overcome their past. Despite every outward sign of success, Danny and Maeve are only truly comfortable when they're together... It is the story of a paradise lost, a tour de force that digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love, forgiveness, how we want to see ourselves, and who we really are."

In other words, all the good stuff!! Hope you enjoy it. Should make for a lively discussion. It's not the norm for this book group as the focus has been more on books about "the other." We can return to those kinds of books for the following meeting.

Pastor Sue asked me to host the January meeting, so at that time, we can discuss other works we might want to read and see where that takes us.

-Marian Lacey

Thursday, January 28 @ noon via Zoom: <https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/331354783>

Dial by your location: +1 720 707 2699 | **Meeting ID:** 331 354 783

CLC Choir Practice Thursdays @ 7:30PM

While we can't prepare in-person music for our CLC Choir, we will to have rehearsals online that focus on building vocal skills & technique, reading music, and eventually recording a few songs & hymns to use in worship videos. If you need materials to be able to participate, please contact the pastors or Liesl. It is recommended everyone use a decent USB plug-in microphone and a pair of headphones. Most computers can handle Zoom, and it is also do-able via cell phone or tablet.

If you are interested in joining the choir and participating in our new virtual rehearsal space, contact our music director Liesl McPherrin, music@coastsidelutheran.org.



November's Treasurer's Report

Accounts:	Mission Investment	\$72,599	
	Northern Money Market	\$ 99,325	
	Wells Fargo Bank	\$ 47,579	
	Dedicated Funds Receivable	\$0	
	Wells Fargo PPP	\$30,503	Total All Asset Accounts
	Pastor 403B Retirement	\$1,108	as of 11/30/2020
	Sales Tax Payable	\$1,110	\$ 219,508
	Payroll Taxes Payable	\$207	
	HMBBC Payable	\$0	
	Citi Cards Credit Card	\$1,669	
	Dedicated Funds	\$ 183,653	
Current Equity:		\$1,258	Total Liabilities + Equity
General Fund			\$219,508

	Actual November 2020	Budgeted November 2020	Over or <Under> Actual over Budget	Year-to-Date As of 11/30/2020	Budgeted Year-to-Date @11/30/2020	Over or <Under> Actual over Budget
Contributions	\$ 9,590	\$ 12,101	(\$2,511)	\$ 135,682	\$ 130,371	\$5,311
Rentals & Other Income	\$1,003	\$3,261	(\$2,258)	\$33,835	\$67,655	(\$33,820)
Total Income	\$ 10,594	\$ 15,361	(\$4,767)	\$ 169,517	\$ 198,026	(\$28,509)
Disbursements	\$ 20,124	\$21,091	(\$ 967)	\$ 182,818	\$ 201,181	(\$18,363)
Net (Income- Expenses)	(\$9,530)	(\$5,730)	(\$3,800)	(\$13,301)	(\$3,155)	(\$10,146)

Dedicated Funds		Actual November 2020	Actual Year-to-Date (11/30/2020)
Income		\$1,183	\$26,101
Disbursements		\$9,702	\$64,466

Trend:

\$2,904 is the average weekly amount required to meet the approved contributions budget for 2020 (\$151,00/52).
\$1,918 was the average weekly contributions amount received in November 2020.

Notes:

1. Giving in November was \$9,590 (5 Sundays) compared to November 2019 giving of \$10,002 (4 Sundays).
2. Giving in November was \$2,511 under budget, and rental/other income was \$2,258 under budget.
3. To-Date our total income is \$28,509 under budget and expenses are \$18,363 under budget making our net budget deficit to-date \$10,146. That deficit combined with the structural 2020 budget deficit-to-date of \$3,155, gives a net deficit (income – expenses) of \$13,301.
4. November expenses exceeded income by \$9,530 which exceeded the budgeted deficit of \$5,730.
5. Current equity is \$1,258 compared to the October 31 equity of \$11,553, and January 1 equity of \$14,559.

SECOND MILE GIVING

Every month, through your generosity, CLC contributes to the “Second Mile Giving” ministries of the ELCA, totaling \$1800 over a 12 month period.

During the month of January our Second Mile offerings will be divided among the Sierra Pacific Synod's Companion Synods:

The Lutheran Church of Rwanda
Lutheran Church of El Salvador
Taiwan Lutheran Church



Please keep these sister synods around the world in your prayers this month and consider an additional offering toward their ministries. The Sierra Pacific Synod is blessed to accompany these churches in mutual ministry as we proclaim God's creative, redeeming and sanctifying love in all the world.

Help Get the Word Out about CLC

Check out our Instagram & Facebook accounts!

Find us at [Instagram.com/coastsidelutheran](https://www.instagram.com/coastsidelutheran) or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/coastsidelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/coastsidelutheranchurch).

Like our photos and stories and be sure to tag our location and use **#spiritualharbor** and **#coastsidelutheran** on posts when sharing info about our upcoming online events.

The more that you can like, comment, and share, the more visible we are in the online community.

#SpiritualHarbor #CoastsideLutheran



Great news! A PayPal donation button is now on our website! You can now easily give to CLC through the PayPal giving fund in the form of one time donations, monthly donations AND through their partnership with eBay for Charity. Sell your secondhand items and clothing on eBay and designate portion of the proceeds to Coastside Lutheran!



OUR CALL

Coastsider Lutheran Church is a spiritual harbor where all, without exception, are welcome and accepted with open arms. We are fed and we grow by sharing in the grace of God through Jesus Christ, so we can go out to serve the community, inspired by the Holy Spirit

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Online Worship ONLY During Shelter-in-Place

10:00 am with Fellowship following. Watch worship online at your leisure!

Worship with us via Zoom every Sunday morning at 10 am, or view at any time from our website or Facebook page. Online fellowship follows worship on Zoom for anyone who wants to join in.

The Zoom link for both worship and fellowship is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84381518830?pwd=aVdLbXBkWWNiTHJFYUVWc1JsOGhuQT09>

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 843 8151 8830 Password: 656832

Weekly Emails

Did you know we send out an email every week with the readings for worship as well as a list of opportunities for engagement? If you would like to receive these emails, contact us at info@coastsidelutheran.org and we'll add you to our address book!

COASTSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

coastsidelutheran.org | 650.726.9293 | info@coastsidelutheran.org

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Coastsider Lutheran Church is proud to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation and a member of the ELCA.

January Newsletter