



FEBRUARY 2021



COASTSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH Half Moon Bay

Lent - Season of Metamorphosis

The season of Lent is right around the corner; Ash Wednesday this year is on February 17. In the Christian tradition, Lent includes the 40 days leading up to Easter (not including Sundays). Over the centuries, the season has been seen as a time of formation for people preparing for baptism on Easter and as a time for reaffirmation for those already baptized; both with a focus on the new life one receives when one is baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ. It has also been seen as a time of repentance, a turning back to God who is “merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness (Ex. 34:6).” In both cases, the season of Lent brings with it a sense of transformation, change, metamorphosis even.

Lenten disciplines traditionally include the giving of alms to the poor, praying and fasting. The purpose of practicing these disciplines is not to earn points with God. Rather, the purpose is to move us into a period of intentionality during which we consciously think about the choices we make, about how we spend our resources and our time, and about our relationships with God, others and all of creation. It is a time to experience a “time out,” a disruption in the routines of our daily lives and in the process, to be reoriented toward God and the way of Jesus.

It was just over a year ago when the first case of Covid-19 was confirmed in the US. Since then all of our lives have been disrupted to varying degrees.

We’ve spent the year sheltering in place, cutoff and isolated from each other; each in our own social bubble or cocoon. Although we still have many hurdles to clear in getting this virus under control, now, finally, as the vaccine begins to be rolled out, we can dare to begin looking forward to the time when we can break out and venture into the world once again; we can begin to ask the questions of how have we been transformed by what we’ve experienced and who we will be (as individuals, as a church and as a society) when we emerge.

When I think of all of us eventually emerging from our social bubbles, I can’t help but think of butterflies breaking forth from their chrysalises and filling the sky with beauty, movement and life. The butterfly has long been a symbol of resurrection and Easter, and the three stages of the butterfly’s life cycle symbolic of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the life into which we are baptized. As we enter this season of Lent, let us use this time as a period of intentionality in the middle of this great period of disruption to examine our lives, our church and our world, and seek the transformations that will lead to the renewal of life that baptism calls forth.

-Pastor Sue



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Worship Opportunities During Lent

ASH WEDNESDAY:



February 17, 7 pm, join our usual worship zoom link

The Zoom link for worship is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84381518830?pwd=aVdLbXBkWWNiTHJFYUVWc1JsOGhuQTo9>

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

On Ash Wednesday, we use ashes to make the sign of the cross on our foreheads. Traditionally, the ashes are made from dried palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. This ritual use of ashes reminds Christians of two central truths about the human condition. First, we are reminded that we are mortal. As Genesis 3 says, we are earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. *Adam* comes from the *adamah* (which means soil in Hebrew); the earth creature from the earth. Second, we are reminded that we are fallen human beings as well and as Israelite tradition ritualized this; we repent in dust and ashes. The crosses on our foreheads however, remind us of God's unconditional love for us shown to us by Jesus on the cross and promised to us in our baptisms. We begin our Lenten journey acknowledging our mortality, lamenting our sins, and trusting in the love of God.

ASHES AT HOME: Our worship service on Ash Wednesday will include a time for worshippers to make the sign of the cross in ash on their foreheads. Packets containing dry ashes are being mailed out from the office. If you do not receive ashes, please contact the office: we have ordered more! Please prepare these ashes for online Ash Wednesday worship ahead of time by placing the dry ash in a small bowl and adding a little oil to make a smudgy paste. **DO NOT USE WATER!** (Water and ash creates lye which can cause skin irritation.) Have a paper towel or cloth on hand during worship to wipe your hands after the imposition of ashes.



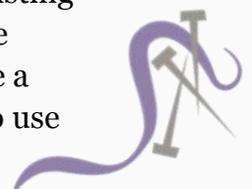
EVENING PRAYER DURING LENT:

Thursdays (2/25-3/25) at 7pm, join our usual worship zoom link

The Zoom link for worship is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84381518830?pwd=aVdLbXBkWWNiTHJFYUVWc1JsOGhuQTo9>

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

Music Director, Liesl McPherrin will lead us in a half hour LIVE-on-ZOOM worship consisting of Taize singing, prayer, scripture and meditation. Songs from the community of Taize are simple; two lines that are repeated several times to allow the words to sink in and become a meditation. Optionally, prepare your worship space with dim lights and a small candle to use as a focus for meditation. Choir rehearsal will follow evening prayer.



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

CLC Choir Practice Thursdays @ 7:30PM

While we can't prepare in-person music for our CLC Choir, we will 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.



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>.

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 February continues Journeys with Angels.

Tuesday, February 8 @ 2 pm via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85211109648?pwd=QU9CNXhrcThUSXZvMzV4ZjhHeDRUZz09>

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

Upcoming Events

Diverse Stories: Fourth Thursday of the Month, 12 noon

February book suggestion is *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah.

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.



Thursday, February 21 @ noon via Zoom: <https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/331354783>

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

Farewell and Godspeed

This month we bid Farewell and Godspeed to our wonderful office assistant, Laura (Lena) Lowman. Lena has been with us for 2 years. During this time, Lena has used all of her organizational skills, flexibility and creativity to keep CLC running smoothly and she has been a tremendous help to us as we navigated all of the challenges of social distancing and working remotely. Lena is leaving us to pursue her career in technical writing. Lena's last day is Feb. 11. Thank you Lena for all you have done for CLC! We wish you much success in the future.



Welcome

Tami Schubert will be joining the CLC team on Feb. 8 and will be taking over for Lena starting on Feb. 16. Tami's regular office hours will be from 10-2 on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday except for weeks when there are council meetings. (Please note: the building is still closed due to COVID so contact the office by phone or email). Tami brings to the position lots of experience in business and office administration and will surely be an asset to CLC. Welcome Tami to CLC! We look forward to working with you and getting to know you!

Council Highlights

- 1. Your CLC Church Council met online on January 20th, and elected officers for the new year:** Henry Lowman (President), Leah Frautschy (Vice President), Mark Loos (Secretary), Bill Nelson and Bill Strom (Co-Treasurers, non-council), and Karen Butcher (Financial Secretary, non-council). The remaining council members, elected in December are Suzanne Bruce, Walter Rau, and Kathy Young, in addition to Pastor Sue Holland. Council highlights:

Kristin Wiersma, consultant from the Joshua Group, presented to council the overall plan for our revitalization effort and discussed the roles of the Joshua Leadership Team (name TBD) as well as the council. CLC's contract with the Joshua Group was signed in January, and work with Kristin is expected to continue for 18 months. Council discussed recruiting additional members for the leadership team and contact plans.

Council reviewed updates to employee contracts, including recognition of David Borac with a new title as Assistant Music Director and Accompanist. Congratulations, David!

In financial matters: giving continues to be strong, although we still have challenges of reduced rental and fundraiser income in 2021. Our current understanding is that CLC is not eligible for the second round of federal PPP loans, nor is it eligible for California state COVID-19 related assistance.

Building repairs continue, with some interruptions due to weather and scheduling. Our hope is to replace the ramp to the West Wing with a sidewalk extension, replace some damaged gutters, and replace walkway lighting in the coming weeks, while also planning for new flooring and a final decision on the oven.

- 2. CLC's annual congregational meeting was held online via Zoom on Sunday, January 31st. A few highlights:**

We kicked off CLC's revitalization plan! Kristin Wiersma from the Joshua Group joined the meeting to introduce the initial steps, and we commissioned the leadership team! Thanks to Teresa Adam, Mark Loos, Michal Settles, Nicole Lopes, Russ Witte, and Pastor Sue for joining in to lead the revitalization initiative!

We briefly reviewed contents of the CLC Annual Report. Thanks to all who contributed these reports and the work behind them!

By unanimous vote, we approved updates to the CLC constitution to conform with required sections of the ELCA model constitution.

Synod Assembly delegates for May 2021 were also elected by unanimous vote: Leahy Frautschy and Walter Rau; alternates are Suzanne Bruce and Mark Loos.

- 3. Staying connected: Council members continue to ask for your input regarding our online programs and future plans.** Please continue to let us know your thoughts! Council meetings are always open; please contact Henry at hblowman@comcast.net for details. **The next council meeting will be on Feb 10th, to avoid conflicts with Ash Wednesday (Feb 17th).**



November's Treasurer's Report

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Accounts: | Mission Investment | \$72,643 | |
| | Northern Money Market | \$ 49,329 | |
| | Wells Fargo Bank | \$ 75,597 | |
| | Dedicated Funds Receivable | \$0 | |
| | Wells Fargo PPP | \$30,503 | Total All Asset Accounts |
| | Pastor 403B Retirement | \$0 | as of 12/31/2020 \$ 197,573 |
| | Sales Tax Payable | \$174 | |
| | Payroll Taxes Payable | \$204 | |
| | HMBBC Payable | \$0 | |
| | Citi Cards Credit Card | \$520 | |
| | Dedicated Funds | \$ 162,450 | |
| Current Equity: | | \$3,722 | Total Liabilities + Equity \$197,573 |

General Fund

| | Actual December 2020 | Budgeted December 2020 | Over or <Under> Actual over Budget | Year-to-Date As of 12/31/2020 | Budgeted Year-to-Date @12/31/2020 | Over or <Under> Actual over Budget |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Contributions | \$ 20,060 | \$ 18,942 | \$1,118 | \$ 155,742 | \$ 151,000 | \$4,742 |
| Rentals & Other Income | \$ 52 | \$3,608 | (\$3,556) | \$33,887 | \$71,262 | (\$37,375) |
| Total Income | \$ 20,112 | \$ 22,550 | (\$2,438) | \$ 189,629 | \$ 222,262 | (\$32,633) |
| Disbursements | \$ 18,984 | \$20,205 | (\$1,221) | \$ 200,466 | \$ 221,300 | (\$20,834) |
| Net (Income- Expenses) | \$1,128 | \$2,345 | (\$1,217) | <u>(\$10,837)</u> | \$ 962 | (\$11,799) |

Dedicated Funds

| | Actual December 2020 | Actual Year-to-Date (12/31/2020) |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Income | \$14,166 | \$40,267 |
| Disbursements | \$35,369 | \$99,835 |

Trend:

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

\$5,015 was the average weekly contributions amount received in December 2020.

Notes:

1. Giving in December was \$20,060 (4 Sundays) compared to December 2019 giving of \$14,653 (5 Sundays).
2. Giving in December was \$1,118 over budget, and rental/other income was \$3,556 under budget.
3. 2020 total income was \$32,633 under budget and expenses were \$20,834 under budget making our 2020 net budget deficit \$11,799. That deficit combined with the structural 2020 budget surplus of \$962, gave a year-end net deficit (income – expenses) of \$10,837; however, 2020 income included transfer of \$4341 from deactivated dedicated accounts so the 2020 deficit was \$15,178 which is still less than 2019 deficit of \$22,062.
4. December income exceeded expenses by \$1,228 which was less than the budgeted surplus of \$2,345.
5. Current equity is \$3,722 compared to the November 30 equity of \$1,258 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 February our Second Mile offerings will be donated to Lutheran Social Services of Northern California. LSS of Northern California’s mission is to promote stability and honor the dignity of those we serve by providing supportive housing services that lead to self-sufficiency. LSS envisions that our communities have hope, stability, and a path to self-sufficiency. LSS offers the hope of lives transformed to people of all faiths (or no faith) who are vulnerable because of homelessness, mental illness, addiction or disaster. Our mission is to provide services to the public at large, throughout a service area that encompasses Northern California, with offices and programs in Sacramento, San Francisco, Contra Costa and San Joaquin counties.



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=aVdLbXBkWWNiTHJFYUVVWc1JsOGhuQT09>

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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

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

February Newsletter