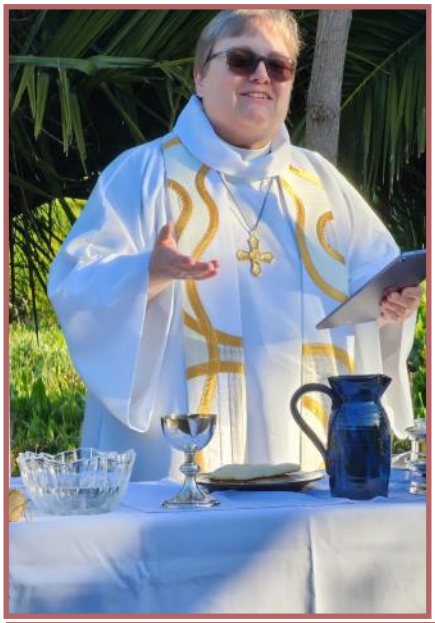
COASTSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Diving into Fall!

This summer seems to have raced by. I hope you have been having some fun, getting some rest and have been enjoying the Olympics. This past week, several of us Coastside Lutherans helped out with the Coastside Annual School Backpack Drive and had a ball stuffing tote bags with supplies and then distributing the supplies and backpacks to local school kids. And of course, the Annual School Backpack Drive is a clear sign that school is about to start and Fall is right around the corner which means activities at CLC are about to heat up!



To kick off the school year, we will be having a Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 18 in worship. Students and lifelong learners of all ages are encouraged to bring their backpacks, briefcases, computer bags, etc. to worship to have them blessed and to stand with our children and youth.

Then, right around the corner is Labor Day weekend, and thanks to the initiative of Suzanne Bruce, CLC is bringing back its Book Faire. Book collection is well underway, and we are looking forward to having throngs of bibliophiles descend on our parking lot during Labor Day Weekend. John and I are planning a special worship for that weekend as well. Proceeds from book sales on Saturday and Sunday go into CLC's general fund and proceeds from Monday will go to a good cause. The Book Faire attracts a lot of people to our campus and is a great way to get the word out about CLC. Please let Suzanne or me know if we can count on your help during Labor Day weekend. We'll need people to help with muscle-intensive things like moving books and also greeters, cashiers and people to staff the CLC Welcome table.

What's Inside

- Letter from Pastor Sue
- Bible FAQ's
- Worship and Other Things
- Recurring Events
- Treasurers Comments
- Ways you can give Bulletin Board
- Connect Online

The following Sunday, we'll kick off the program year at CLC with Rally Day, a Lutheran tradition similar to homecoming. We'll have a BBQ lunch after worship to celebrate the gathering of our church family as people return from vacations and we'll honor our Book Faire volunteers. CLC will supply the hamburgers and hot dogs; everyone else is asked to bring a side to share. A signup sheet will be on the bulletin board in the west wing in a week or so.

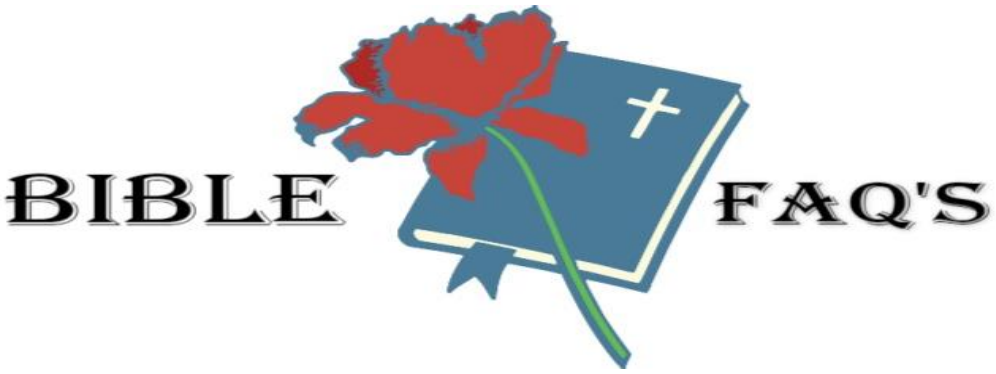
Other events are being planned for later on in the fall including, but not limited to, our annual Harvest Festival Dinner, a Tree Trimming Party, another joint theatre outing with Holy Family, and the Christmas Sing (which we are hosting this year).

In worship, we'll be celebrating the Feast of St. Francis with our annual Blessing of the Animals, as well as Reformation Sunday and All Saints' Sunday. Then before you know it, we'll be into Advent and preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

I'm looking forward to a praise-filled and fun-packed fall. Make sure you read the weekly email and the monthly newsletters to keep up with the latest goings on and please, invite your friends and family to any of these worship or social events.

Peace,

Pastor Sue



In this edition of Bible FAQs, we look at what we know about who wrote each of the Gospels, who their original target audiences were, and what their primary emphases are.

Overview: As we mentioned in an earlier Bible FAQ, the four Gospels contained in the Bible were written years after Jesus' death and resurrection, The Gospel of Mark was written first, followed by Matthew and Luke which used Mark as a source. The Gospel of John was written last and developed independently from the three Synoptic Gospels. When considering each Gospel, there are "three settings in life" that need to be considered. The first is the setting of Jesus' actual life and his historical ministry. The second is the situation of the person who wrote the Gospel and the issues they and their communities faced. The third is the situation of the early church which considered the writing valuable for their community and thus preserved it and used it. Finally, when we 21st century Christians reflect on the Gospels, our situations also play a role in how these sacred texts speak to us today.

Mark: The Gospel of Mark was not written by one of the apostles but most certainly by someone named Mark. The question is, however, which Mark, given that Mark was a common name at the time. Early writers in the church ascribed the Gospel of Mark to a companion of the Apostle Peter, possibly his interpreter who was urged to write down the preachings of Peter. What is not clear is whether the author of Mark is the John Mark who shows up in the book of Acts and in some of Paul's letters.

BIBLE FAQ'S (CONT.)

Matthew: The authorship of the Gospel of Matthew is also unknown and is most certainly not the apostle Matthew. The Gospel itself does not contain any identification of its author and it most likely was attributed to the apostle Matthew because it contains the story of the calling of Matthew, the tax collector.

What we do know is that the author of the Gospel of Matthew wrote in Greek for a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian community. This Gospel was most likely written between 80-90, during a period of time when tensions were high between nascent Christian communities trying to establish themselves and Jewish communities trying to reinvent themselves in the aftermath of the destruction of the temple.

Matthew's Gospel is organized around five major discourses or lectures, and Jesus is characterized as a teacher with authority to reinterpret the law. This Gospel, which contains many references to the Hebrew scriptures, emphasizes the fulfillment of prophecy and the place of the law within Christian life.

Luke: The Gospel of Luke most certainly was written by the same person who wrote the Book of Acts, however, neither book identifies its author. In order to rest the authority of the books on an apostle, (in this case Paul) the Gospel of Luke has been attributed to "Luke, the beloved physician" who accompanied Paul on some of his journeys. The author of Luke was most likely a Gentile Christian, who spoke Greek and had a Hellenistic vs. Jewish background. He also did not have a great knowledge of Palestinian geography. Luke's Gospel presupposes the fall of Jerusalem, which dates it after 70AD and other indicators place its origin slightly later than the Gospel of Matthew, between 80-100AD.

BIBLE FAQ'S (CONT.)

The Gospel of Luke, along with its companion volume, the book of Acts, tells the story of salvation history that extends through the life of Jesus and continues in the life of the church. The Gospel of Luke, often referred to as the "Social Justice Gospel," emphasizes the power of the Good News of Jesus Christ to transform not only individuals but also society.

John: The only identifying statement about the author of the Gospel of John occurs at the end of the Gospel, when the author describes himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" and as an eyewitness to Jesus' ministry and crucifixion. Although not entirely certain, the consensus is that the author of John is indeed the Apostle John. The Apostle John most likely also wrote the three letters of John but probably not Revelation, which identifies its author as John of Patmos.

The Gospel of John was also written after the fall of Jerusalem, and acutely expresses the tensions between the Jewish sects that were regrouping and the Christian sects trying to establish their own identity. Although John acknowledges the Jewishness of Jesus, the disciples and John the Baptist, he paints a harsh picture of the Pharisees as the opponents of Jesus, and this characterization unfortunately has been used to fuel antisemitism over the centuries. The focus of John's Gospel is Christology, making explicit that Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ, who reveals God to humanity. John places the temporal life and ministry of Jesus, God incarnate, within the scope of God's eternity. John's Gospel is organized around seven signs, seven miraculous events which point beyond themselves and expand in meaning to reveal truths about God.

Bible FAQ's (cont.)

Conclusion: Each of the four Gospels tells the Good News of Jesus Christ from its own perspective speaking to audiences in different situations and with different spiritual needs. Despite the modern urge to bring them into agreement, they do not need to be harmonized, but should rather be received as unique understandings of the Incarnation.

Do you have a question about the Bible? Send it to me in an email and I'll see what I can find on the subject.

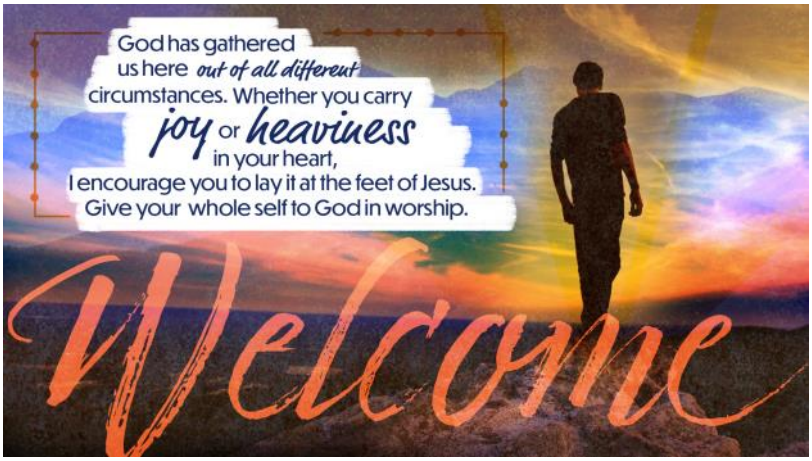
-Pastor Sue

Worship and Other Things

UNIVERSAL ZOOM LINK

For Livestream of the service and any other announced meetings or gatherings that are not in person:

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



Sunday August 18th: We kick off the 2024-2025 school year with a Blessing of the Backpacks. Students of all ages, bring to worship your backpack, briefcase, computer bag or whatever you use to carry your books and supplies to receive a blessing for the start of a new program year.

Schedule for In-Person Services

9:30-10:25	Worship in the Sanctuary w/Holy Communion
10:25-11:25	Fellowship in the West Wing

We are live streaming the service and will have recordings available later Sunday on Facebook & You Tube. We will be using our usual CLC universal zoom link above for the live stream.

Past Recorded Services You Tube Link:

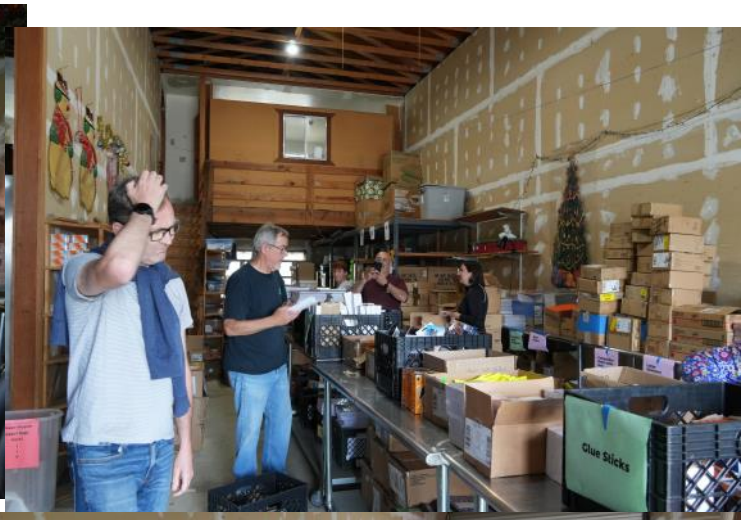
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwvP4ojKj99fFttypX3db-Q?app=desktop

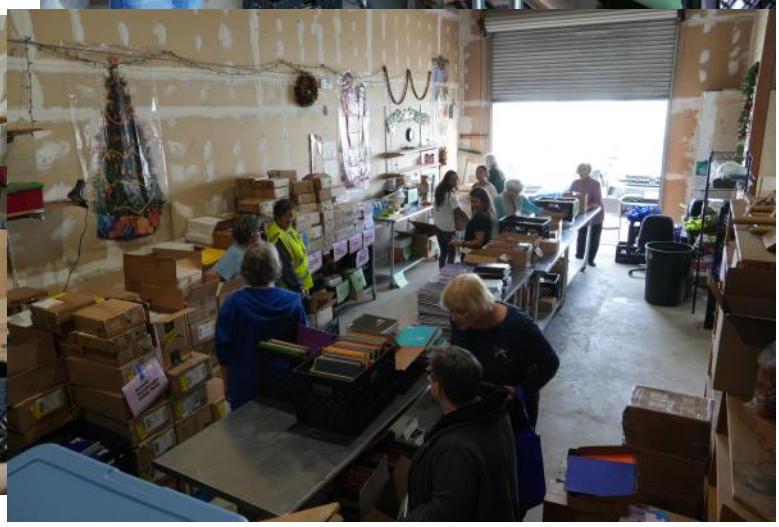
Worship and Other Things (Cont.)

Thank you to everyone who donated or helped out to make this year's Community Backpack Program a success

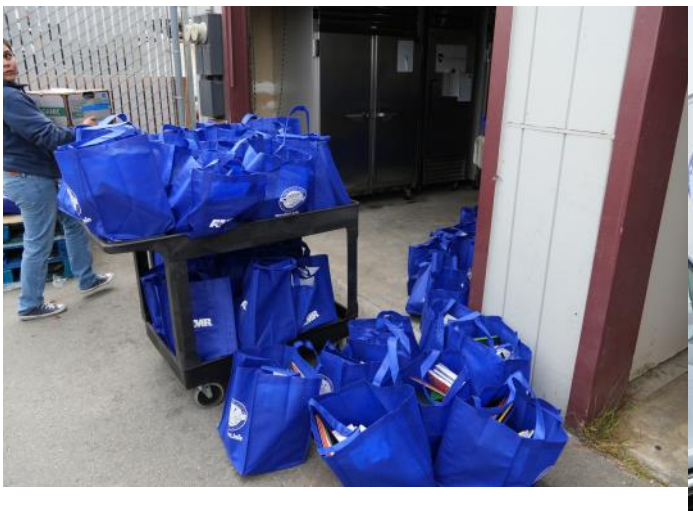
Here's some Pics!

Worship and Other Things (Cont.)





Worship and Other Things (Cont.)



Worship and Other Things (Cont.)

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A few Pictures from Ryan's Baptism July 14, 2024

May God Bless Him!

Worship and Other Things (Cont.)

Coastside Pride Chorus

Come to our first Summer Cabaret on August 17 at the Odd Fellows Hall.

The fall session will begin on September 17.

Rehearsals every Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
For information, please contact John Lehrack at
www.coastsidepridechorus.org

Coastside Lutheran Church Choir Fall Season begins on Sunday September 25 after worship. New members welcome! Contact John Lehrack at John@johnlehrackmusic.com for more information.

This Is Us
A Summer Cabaret
Saturday, August 17 7:00 p.m.
Oddfellows Hall, 526 Main St, Half Moon Bay
Tickets at hmb-odd.org
Coastside
Pride Chorus

Worship and Other Things (Continued)

Coastside Pride Chorus is soliciting donations for our first annual silent auction, to be held at our cabaret, This Is Us on August 17.

A partial list of possible auction items includes

Art
Collectibles
Crafts
Gift Baskets
Gift Certificates
Lessons or Classes
Private Tours, Excursions or Experiences
Vacation Rentals
Gourmet Meals
Wine Baskets
Pet Sitting
and more.

If you would like to donate a good or service, please contact John Lehrack at john@johnlehrackmusic.com. Deadline for donations is August 12.

SAVE THE DATE!

RALLY DAY BBQ AND POTLUCK
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 AFTER WORSHIP
KICK OFF THE NEW PROGRAM YEAR AND
CELEBRATE OUR BOOKFAIR VOLUNTEERS.
CLC SUPPLIES THE BURGERS AND DOGS, SIGNUP
TO BRING A SIDE.

See Bulletin Board to signup.

Worship and Other Things (Continued)

The Farm to Table Dinner is September 21, 2024!

Mark you calendars for September 21st and enjoy an exciting night with Abundant Grace supporting our local homeless community as they work on improving their lives!

We will have a delicious meal prepared by the amazing Chef Diego Felix, live music, an expansive list of silent auction items, and moving testimonials from participants in our programs.

Thank you for being a valued part of our community! Keep your eyes open for an email invite from us in a few weeks! We hope to see you there!

Worship and Other Things (Continued)

As we draw closer to the elections in November, I want to make you aware of these resources available to us from Churchwide addressing the topic of Christian Nationalism which explain what it is and how it relates or doesn't relate to Christianity as Lutherans understand it. From the ELCA Advocacy resource: "One ELCA pastor wrote, 'Sometimes people use words to claim to stand for something people think of as good but actually stand for something different. 'Christian' nationalism may sound like a good thing because it uses the word, Christian. And the people who advocate for 'Christian' nationalism do think of themselves as Christian. However, they stand for things we in our tradition identify as contrary to the Gospel and opposed to what it means to be Christian.' Whether in your church or with friends and family, it is helpful to be versed in Christian nationalism from a Lutheran perspective."

A video by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8CsPTzJCPE

An overview of Christian Nationalism prepared by E LCA Advocacy: https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/wearechristiansagainstchristiannationalism.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_cmpaign=071824_googleseeds&utm_content=(071824)+Seeds

In addition, ELCA Advocacy provides other resources about civic engagement on their website:

https://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/election-engagement/

Worship and Other Things (Continued)

United Lutheran Seminary
Kindling Faith
Learning Never Ends

June – October 2024, dates listed with topics, 7 – 8:30 pm

Online via zoom (and recorded for later viewing)

Cost $20 per individual or $80 per congregation (no limit to number in attendance). Check with synod office for possible funding.

To register, please click here or use QR code provided below:

What does it mean to be Lutheran in a crucial election year?

As our faith informs our day-to-day lives, Lutherans recognize that "faith is active in love [and] love calls for justice in relationships and structures of society" (ELCA, Social Statement on Church in Society, 1991). We also know the church is called to be a community that prays, deliberates, and acts together when it comes to complex social issues. In this election year, how might our Lutheran faith shape our thinking, acting, and voting on major issues? Join us to learn and ponder timely social teachings of the ELCA and to learn tips for leading discussions in your own community.

June 25:	*Introduction to Social Teachings* Dr. Roger Willer, Director of Theological Ethics for the ELCA
August 27:	*Corporate Social Responsibility* Rev. Kaari Reierson, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility for the ELCA
September 10:	*Abortion* Dr. Caryn Riswold, Professor of Religion/McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College
September 24:	*Faith, Sexism and Justice* Dr. Mary Streufert, Director, Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment, and Heather Dean, Program Coordinator, Theological Discernment, ELCA
October 8:	*Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide* Dr. Ryan Cumming, Program Director, Theological Ethics, Education, and Community Engagement
October 22:	*Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture* Dr. Richard Perry, emeritus faculty, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Recurring Events

Women's Daytime Gathering:

Second Tuesday of the Month, Our next Gathering is **August 13th.**

In August, the Women's Gathering will be in person at the church and on Zoom.
Every month we gather for fellowship, support and study. We laugh and listen together, sharing openly our questions, observations, and stories. You can participate in one, or multiple sessions. We will be using the Bible Studies in Gather magazine.

Recurring Events Continued

Diverse Stories: **Third Wednesday of the Month.** We next meet on August 21st. The book for **August is "The Women" by Kristin Hannah.** This is a story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and have a commitment to their country that has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.*

In the tradition of Martin Luther:

Table Talk

The next Table Talk will be on **September 4th at 11:30**. For September Table Talk, We will be discussing Richard Rohr's "Universal Christ".

Treasurer's Comments May

We continue to track well with the budget in regards to both income and spending.

Giving is 3% below budget but other income is above budget with the result that we are total income is just $238 below budget at this time.

We have a deficit of about $7,000 year-to-date but we are doing better than our budgeted deficit of almost $13,000.

Keep in mind we have a deficit budget for 2024 so by tracking with the budget we will end up the year having to use equity to cover all our expenses.

Our total assets are $10,530, 6%, less than they were on January 1. Assuming we go ahead with the parking lot repair and sealing, we will drain another significant amount from our assets: bids range from $18K to $28K and we have $10K in the parking lot savings fund. It will require using equity to cover the difference between the fund balance and the actual costs.

Treasurer's Comments June

The trend of income and expenses tracking well with the budget continues with a slight uptick in giving which had been running a bit behind up to this month.

June giving was about $1,400 greater than the budget and $1,800 greater than last year. Other income continues to run ahead of budget with the result that total income to-date is about $1,000 ahead of budget.

Expenses to-date are about $8,200 under budget. We still are running a deficit, with spending (which includes $7,000 moved into dedicated savings funds) $6,616 greater than income. Setting aside the funds moved to dedicated accounts, spending and income are almost dead even: a good thing. Another good thing is at this point we projected a budget deficit of $15,823 so we're doing better than budgeted.

At the halfway point of the year we're tracking well for a 3/4-time pastor, but we have yet to see an income increase sufficient for a full-time pastor which was our goal this year when we approved this deficit budget.

Ways you can Give

Bulletin board

Click Here to see all the ways to give and/or Volunteer:

https://www.coastsidelutheran.net/giving.html

Check here monthly for any new ways to give or new volunteer needs we may have added. Click the link above to be reminded of the already existing ways to give and/or Volunteer.

Check out our Instagram & Facebook accounts!
Find us at **Instagram.com/coastsidelutheran**
or on Facebook at **Facebook.com/**
coastsidelutheranchurch.

Like our photos and stories and be sure to tag our location 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.

OUR CALL

Growing together in faith that expresses itself in love.

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am Sunday Service

Online Worship

You may also Worship with us via Zoom every Sunday morning at 9:30 am, or view later in the afternoon 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@coastsideluteran.org and we'll add you to our address book! **(A note about weekly emails**: each week we send an email out from the office with the weekly readings, details about upcoming events and other important information. Please let us know if you stopped receiving these emails. Thanks.)

COASTSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

coastsidelutheran.org | 650.726.9293 | info@coastsidelutheran.org

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

Summer 2024 Newsletter