

Lutheran Church in the Foothills

Living in God's Amazing Grace

COUNCIL CORNER - LENT IS ON THE DOORSTEP

"This is my Son, the Beloved; ... listen to him!" Matthew 17: 5

From the Transfiguration of Jesus through Ash Wednesday, it is a short trip to the season of Lent. As our minister Viv mentioned, Fat Tuesday, or *Mardis Gras*, before Ash Wednesday, is a celebration and feasting before the fasting of Lent, "the bender before the benediction." And when you read this Newsletter, we will be in the season of penitence that recalls Jesus' own temptations in the wilderness.

There are several items to note from the Church Council. Our **Call Committee** has submitted our Mission Site Profile to the synod and is awaiting the synod's action in providing candidates for our next pastor. In the meantime, we are pleased that both **Viv Vega** and Pastor **Tim Singleton** have agreed to continue serving us through June 30, 2026, if the call process is still ongoing.

We ask you to be aware that the City of La Canada may soon be doing work on Foothill Boulevard - and to a limited extent, under our church property -- to repair pipes that may have caused the dip in the boulevard. Our council has signed a Right of Entry Agreement that will allow the city limited use of our parking lot during this construction, scheduled to run from April through November. We thank our Facilities Team, and especially **David Haxton** and **Greg Hiscott**, for their work in re-striping the parking lot in advance of this work.

As we enter this season of the year, I note that our income versus expense tallies have stayed fairly consistent these past 7 months, although we are currently running a deficit of some \$1200 per month. Our giving has been consistent as well, currently some \$11,000 over the budgeted amount for this period. We appreciate this financial commitment greatly.

(continued on page 2)

March 2026



MISSION STATEMENT

As one house of Christ's Church, we welcome you home. Here you will find the love of Christ exemplified. Here you will find a community rooted in the Gospel.

VISION STATEMENT

LCIF provides sanctuary, hope and healing to all, without judgment; offers answers to everyday challenges; and grows stronger so that we will be able to reach out more effectively.

LCIF STAFF

Presiding Minister: Viv Vega
Pastoral Care: Tim Singleton
Ministers: All People of LCIF
Music Minister: Mark Anzelon
Music Ministry:
Katherine Frantsen
Administrative Assistant:
Emily DiPetrillo

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE FOOTHILLS

1700 Foothill Blvd.
La Cañada Flintridge
Sunday Service at 10am
Office hours: 9am - 1pm, M-Th
818.790.1951
office@lcifoothills.org
youtube@lcifoothills
lcifoothills.org



**LENTEN
SOUP SUPPERS**
WEDNESDAYS
6pm Supper
7pm Service
Fellowship Hall
February 25 -
March 25



Volunteers Needed!
Lots of Opportunities to help at LCIF!

- No amount of time is too little!
- Help keep LCIF's Ministries going strong
- No experience needed ... we offer training!

We Need Help with

- Proofreading
- Coordinating Volunteers
- Worship Servers
- Blood Drive Liaison

For more details, read the "LCIF Ministry Opportunities" article in this newsletter

WORSHIP SERVERS

Sunday, March 1

Second Sunday in Lent

Altar Guild: Janet Cassidy

Communion Server: Jeff Brandt

Fellowship: Renee Brandt and Elham Manti

Lector: Jeff Brandt

TMT: Jim Goris

Usher/Greeter: Roger Schulke

Sunday, March 8

Third Sunday in Lent

Altar Guild: Renee Brandt

Communion Server: Craig Gropper

Fellowship: Lori Moody

Lector: Craig Gropper

TMT: Renee Brandt

Usher/Greeter: Jim Goris

Sunday, March 15

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Altar Guild: Janice Schettini

Communion Server: Gavin Hall

Fellowship: Janet Cassidy

Lector: Ellen Harrington

TMT: Renee Brandt

Usher/Greeter: David Haxton

Sunday, March 22

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Altar Guild: Renee Brandt

Communion Server:

Jane McMahon

Fellowship: Sarah Legerton

Lector: Jane McMahon

TMT: Renee Brandt

Usher/Greeter: Joe Johnson

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

Altar Guild: Jeff Brandt

Communion Server: Mae Welter

Fellowship: Yvonne Baldwin and Janice Schettini

Lector: Lynn Banfi

TMT: GariLynn & Greg Hiscott

Usher/Greeter: Roger Schulke

FEBRUARY 2026 BUDGET BOX SCORE

December Offerings	Offerings thru 12/31/25	Budget Deficit
\$14,223	\$104,345	December expenses: \$25,899 December income: \$19,268
Needed monthly: \$15,083	Year to Date Budget: \$90,500	This month: <\$6,633> Year to Date: <\$1,509>
<\$860>	+\$13,845	Budgeted Deficit YTD: \$19,492 Actual Deficit Difference: +\$17,983
January Offerings	Offerings thru 1/31/26	Budget Deficit
\$10,844	\$116,689	January expenses: \$20,345 January income: \$13,369
Needed monthly: \$15,083	Year to Date Budget: \$105,583	This month: <\$6,956> Year to Date: <\$8,465>
<\$4,239>	+\$11,106	Budgeted Deficit YTD: \$22,741 Actual Deficit Difference: +\$14,276

IN MEMORIAM



Two beloved members of our LCIF family recently passed into eternal life. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Emilie Wrablicz - January 3

Karen Ostash - February 6

COUNCIL CORNER *(continued from page 1)*

What we all might now consider is if there is available time we could offer to the church in the form of volunteering. The special services upcoming, including Holy Week and Easter Brunch and activities for families on Easter, will require volunteers.

Finally, consider whether you may be called for a longer-term position in the church, as our **Nominating Committee** will be seeking members to serve on church council, the audit team, and as a voting delegate to our Synod Assembly.

Expressing the Hope that we can all listen to the call of Jesus, now and always,

- Jeffrey Brandt, for the Church Council

LCIF CALL COMMITTEE NEWS



Good news from the call committee. We have submitted the MSP document and established an appointment to meet with Julia Morales from the Southern California Synod office, who is in charge of matching pastors with Ministry sites within the Synod boundaries. The meeting will take place on February 25, 2026.

-submitted by Greg Hiscott, Chair

IT'S A SMALL LCIF WORLD!



Recently, **Viv Vega** (our current Presiding Minister) and **Pastor Jeremy Serrano** (former LCIF intern and Director of Family Ministry) connected when they discovered that Jeremy is part of the advisory team for Viv at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary!

TEAM MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY



Finance: Monday, March 16 at 5:00pm
Operations: Tuesday, March 17 at 5:00pm
Church Council: Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00pm
 Meetings are in the Conference Room and all are welcome!

MONTHLY PRAYER BREAKFAST



PRAYER
BREAKFAST

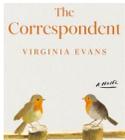
Our next Prayer Breakfast will be on **Thursday, March 5 at 9:00am**. We meet at the La Cañada McDonald's - you can get your food and join us for food, fellowship, and sharing prayer together. No RSVP or experience needed!

WOMEN'S GATHER MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY



Women's GATHER Bible Study will meet on **Tuesday March 10** and **Tuesday, March 24 at 1:00pm** in the Conference Room. No RSVP is needed!

LCIF'S BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will meet this month on **Monday, March 16 at 1:00pm** to discuss The Correspondent by Virginia Evans. For April, the club will be reading Violeta by Isabel Allende.



LENT / HOLY WEEK / EASTER

March 1 - 2nd Sunday in Lent
10:00am Worship

March 22 - 5th Sunday in Lent
10:00am Worship

March 4 - Lenten Soup Supper
6:00pm Soup / 7:00pm Worship
In the Fellowship Hall

March 25 - Lenten Soup Supper
6:00pm Soup / 7:00pm Worship
In the Fellowship Hall

March 8 - 3rd Sunday in Lent
10:00am Worship

March 29 - Palm Sunday
10:00am Worship

March 11 - Lenten Soup Supper
6:00pm Soup / 7:00pm Worship
In the Fellowship Hall

April 2 - Maundy Thursday
7:00pm Worship

March 15 - 4th Sunday in Lent
10:00am Worship

April 3 - Good Friday
7:00pm Worship

March 18 - Lenten Soup Supper
6:00pm Soup / 7:00pm Worship
In the Fellowship Hall

April 5 - Easter Sunday
8:30am Continental Breakfast
and Easter Egg Hunt
10:00am Worship

All Are Welcome!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Ed Gould - March 1
 Matilde Coleman - March 4
 Yvonne Baldwin - March 5
 Joe Johnson - March 6
 Jeff Brandt - March 11
 Tina Hartney - March 26
 Lee Clarke - March 30

PRAYER LIST

If you would like someone added to our the list, then please send their name and any other information to office@lcifoothills.org. The list is printed in our bulletin.

REGULAR HAPPENINGS

Sunday School
 10am during worship
 for children in 1st - 4th grade

Choir Rehearsals
 Sundays at 9:15am and 11:30am
 No experience needed!

Book Club
 Third Monday of the month
 1pm in the Fellowship Hall

Women Gather
 2nd/4th Tuesdays of the month
 1pm in the Conference Room

Knit Together
 Wednesdays
 1pm in the Conference room

Prayer Breakfast
 First Thursday of the Month
 9am at the La Cañada McDonalds

Quilters
 Saturdays at 9am
 in the Quilting Room



LCIF'S STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



Each month in our newsletter, there is an image of a stained glass window from our sanctuary along with an explanation.

Here is a window based on John 14:6 (Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life) which for me is that Jesus is the way to saving the world. As a note, while I suggest a window, the descriptions of the windows were written by Pastor Jeremy Serrano when he was an Intern and Youth Leader at LCIF.

This symbol is a picture of a road leading upward. The book may be the map and description of the road. A wise planner of a journey gets dependable guides. Jesus told his disciples that he was the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus is saying, "Follow me, stay with me, depend on me because I am the way."

- Renee Brandt

LCIF MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



LCIF has important ministry happening and you can support it! LCIF has part-time staff, so most of our ministry occurs from the investment of time from volunteers. It is our church and we are the ones who make it happen, so it's up to us. If you want something to happen at LCIF, you need to contribute your time and talent.

Every week, the office prepares documents during worship plus monthly newsletters, flyers and newspaper ads. Emily appreciates **proofreading assistance**. Are you available to help? Communication is via email and a perk of this task is getting to see early versions of all the news!

Our worship services can't happen without volunteers to serve as lector, communion server, altar guild, coffee fellowship host, TMT (tech ministry team) and usher.

None of these positions require you to be perfect! If you serve in love, God will make it all come out right! AND there is a coordinator to schedule the various tasks. Would you like to be the volunteer who **coordinates altar guild, communion servers, TMT, and ushers**? Renee will partner with you until you feel comfortable. You can contact people by phone or email ... or, you can choose to use something like "SignUp Genius" to help coordinate. Let the office know if you would like to get in the rotation for lector, communion server, altar guild, coffee fellowship host, TMT, or usher.

We are in also in need of a **Red Cross Blood Drive Program Leader**. Since 2020, LCIF has had 17 blood drives with the American Red Cross which have resulted in almost 400 units of blood ... which means LCIF has likely helped 1200 people receive life-saving blood! As **LCIF's Blood Drive Program Leader**, Renee will partner with you until you feel comfortable. Most of the coordination with the Red Cross is via email and we have an assigned area manager who will help you. You will also work with Emily to help coordinate publicity for the drives. You do not need to be on site all day, but it is helpful to be there for the start and end. Recently, we've been having 3 drives per year on Thursdays (10 AM - 4 PM). Set-up begins about 8:45 AM and clean-up is finished by 5:00 PM.

If you are **interested in learning more** about any of these opportunities, or have any questions, please contact Emily at office@lcifoothills.org or 818.790.1951.

- Renee Brandt

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING A SUCCESS!



Thank you to all who donated to their favorite team during our "Souper Bowl of Caring" in February! While the world famous game declared the Seattle Seahawks the football champions, the true winner for LCIF was Hope of the Valley which received over \$100 plus food items from our fundraising!

