



# The Clarion

We are called to include all people seeking a relationship with Jesus.

Welcome to

**CLAIREMONT LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**IGLESIA LUTERANA**



## WHAT IS YOUR STORY TO TELL?

Dear church,

This October, we're launching our CLC stewardship campaign, "A Story to Tell," because every act of faithfulness writes a new chapter in God's work among us. Stewardship is not just about budgets—it's about belonging, discipleship, and the shared story God is authoring through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Each testimony—big or small—reminds us that generosity changes lives, including our own. As we reflect on God's goodness, we remember that everything we have is a gift to be stewarded with courage and joy. Together, we will lift up stories of impact, gratitude, and hope, celebrating how God is moving in our families, our church, and our community.



### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

English – 9:30 am

Español – 11:30 am

### Ministry Staff

**Senior Pastor: Manuel Borbon**

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**Clarion Editor**

[clarion.editor@clairemontlc.org](mailto:clarion.editor@clairemontlc.org)

**November 2025  
CLARION DEADLINE  
Monday October 20 @ 4 p.m.**

Throughout October, I'm inviting you to pray, listen, and participate. Share your story of God's faithfulness. Commit your time, your talents, and your resources with boldness and trust. Every gift matters, and every voice strengthens our mission. Let's step forward with expectant hearts, believing that God will multiply what we offer and carry our shared story into the future. May this be a month of renewed vision, deeper unity, and joyful generosity — because in Christ, we truly have "A Story to Tell."

In partnership,

*P. Manuel*



Support CCSA and outreach to those needing help at Christmas. We will provide Family Christmas Baskets. You can support this program by creating your own gift basket, donating items for the baskets, or making a monetary donation for us to purchase items. A flyer with information about items to donate will be available in the narthex.



**We will assemble Christmas Baskets on Sunday, December 7.**

CCSA clients needing help sign up with Clairemont or Pacific Beach centers.

**Baskets will be distributed by CCSA on December 11.**

**CCSA will also be providing Christmas Homeless Gift Bags.**

Suggested gift items: New knit gloves, New knit caps, Candy Bar (small size), a pair of socks, Wash washcloth, Hygiene products – toothbrush/paste, chapstick, new brush or comb, toothpaste (travel size), shampoo & conditioner (travel size), lotion (travel size), soap (travel size) nail clippers.

\*\*\*\*\* \$10 Gift card (McDonalds, Rite Aid, Jack in the Box, Subway, Vons Etc.)

Please contact **Heidi Acosta (858) 373 8634** if you have questions.

# Learning From The Dying

**By Gary Jaus**

I have never experienced a year like 2025. Never have I gone through a time where so many of my friends, former police co-workers, high school classmates, and members of our congregation have passed in such a short period of time. Law enforcement is a big brotherhood, and some of those who passed were former partners, officers on my squad, or people that I worked around. We shared careers marked by exciting events, life-changing tragedies, frustrating failures, and amazing successes. Their passing makes me sad, but their passings aren't surprising. It's where we are in the circle of life.

This year, my lifelong friend, Larry, passed away from ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease. We'd grown up together and were close friends for over sixty years. Last October, Larry called me and asked me to come to his house. When I hung up the phone, I knew it was going to be bad news. Larry told me he probably had less than a year to live. I began visiting him weekly, and we would talk mostly about the Padres or the teams we disliked, like the Dodgers. Sorry Pastor Borbon.



Larry's ALS was the type that first attacked his vocal cords, and he quickly lost his ability to speak. After that happened, we texted about baseball, past girlfriends, or memories of the stupid, fun things we did as kids.

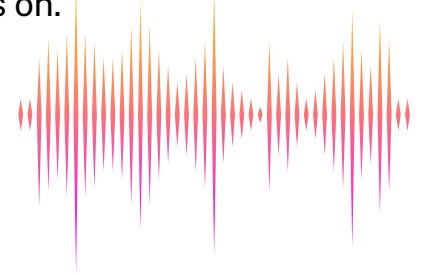
Larry's ALS was aggressive, but before he lost his ability to speak, he shared he'd always thought he'd have about ten years of retirement to spend with his family, and especially his grandkids. Larry lived for less than two years after retirement.

When ALS affected Larry's hand coordination and he lost his ability to text, our visits became more difficult for me. Then the ALS diminished his vision. Larry knew I was with him because he could hear me, but our interactions became very basic. I couldn't tell if my visits were making a difference.

My frustrations grew until one day, when I was standing at the foot of his bed, I prayed to God to help me figure out how to connect with Larry. My prayer was answered when the Holy Spirit said, 'Do as Jesus did for his disciples, rub his feet.' From that moment on, I rubbed Larry's feet during every visit. When I did, I could sense him relaxing, breathing deeper, and falling asleep. It was a blessing because Larry was most fearful about dying in his sleep from suffocation.

Larry passed away in June. The next day, I called Laurie, another childhood friend from our neighborhood, to tell her about Larry's passing. Laurie said she had some bad news, too; she was suffering from pancreatic cancer and fighting for her life. Laurie was diagnosed with her cancer on Easter Sunday, and she knows the journey she's on.

On Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, I asked you (the congregation) to sing two verses of a song to her after the worship service. Twenty-nine of you stood on the steps to the Altar and sent a powerful message that we were all caring for her. It was a message she needed to hear.



Laurie recently had a blood test that measured some substance in her blood, where a normal reading should be 0-35 parts per milliliter. Laurie's results were terrible. She had over 500 parts per milliliter. Her chemo treatments had stalled the spread of cancer, but only for a short time.

I was angry at God after Laurie shared the dire news, and I don't remember ever in my life being angry at God. But I was angry for days. In one of those angry moments, I prayed, *"Heavenly Father, all Laurie wants is to live long enough to see her daughter's wedding in June, and you can't let that happen?"* I prayed stupid words like, *"Come on God, I'm a good guy, I try to be a faithful servant, and I'm even the President of the congregation."* It's okay to laugh at those stupid words because they sounded ridiculous even as I prayed them. Saying and doing things when we're angry is probably never a good idea, but in those angry moments, I meant what I said.

I told Aida about my anger, and she chastised me a bit, saying, *'You need to have more faith. Laurie still has hope, I do, and you should too. God can change the course of this.'* I believe that wholeheartedly, while realizing God doesn't always reveal the wisdom of His plans.



Since Laurie shared her illness, Aida and I have called her, texted and sent her multiple cards every week. In our conversations, Laurie shared her amazing faith-filled perspectives on where she's at and where's she's going. She isn't afraid of dying. She's sad that she will be leaving her family yet knows her joy in Heaven will be infinitely greater than her sadness here on earth. She questions why she gets to be with Jesus, but not in the vein of 'Why me Lord?' Instead, her question is, 'Why do I get the blessed honor of being with Jesus before so many others.' I was especially struck when she said, *"I've lived a gifted life. I delivered two children without any drugs-it was the worst pain I've ever felt. I was screaming like crazy, but I survived. If God wants me to, I can hang with on the cross with him."*

Laurie's faith shaped her values and made her candid about her faith. Her words have the power of believability. Her vision of life with Christ has helped lessen my sense of loss but not eliminated it. That indescribable sensation we get in our chest when sadness is bringing us down lies just beneath my surface right now. This has been a hard summer for me.

The Holy Spirit lifted my spirits when I was told to rub Larry's feet. In doing that, I relearned the truth about the power of touch to the dying. Listening to Laurie, I heard her inspiring words about her faith.

I don't know why God chose to call Larry to his Kingdom now and why Laurie will be there soon. I am tremendously sad, but maybe in my sadness learning lessons from the dying is part of God's greater plan. Still, I wouldn't mind a miracle.

PS.

In one of those husband-and-wife conversations, Aida told me to quit getting so teary. I told her I didn't want to stop because shedding tears gave my brain more room to grow. She replied, "If that's the case, you need to start sobbing." 😊

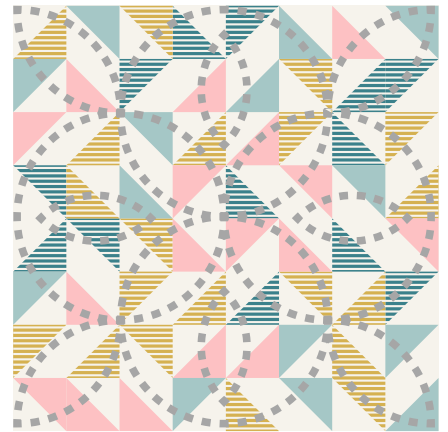
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## *"Thank offering" and "Blessing of the Quilts"*

### **What is a Thankoffering?**

It is a tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings received from God throughout the year. We honor it by designating a Sunday in October to collect offerings to support some of the life-changing ministries of the church wide organization of the Women of the ELCA.

(Blue envelopes will be on the tables as you enter the church on Sunday.)



The Mission Quilting Group will display the quilts they have made during the past several months throughout the sanctuary on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. They will be blessed during the service by Pastor Manuel. On the following day, they will be boxed, stored, and later shipped to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). The quilts will be sent to both national and international locations. They provide warmth, love, and shelter to those who receive them. It is heartwarming to see the quilts displayed throughout the sanctuary and to have an opportunity to thank God for all those who have given their time and talents making them.

Fall 2025:

“Money, Stewardship and Generosity”  
by the Rev. Christa von Zychlin

## SESSION TWO

### Stewardship – How do we tend our treasure?

God madly, beautifully, entrusts human beings with the care of all creation, including time, talent, and material wealth. Moses needs help with his time management. The practice of tithing could be considered a class in Material Management 101. Jesus confronts his disciples with disturbing words about God’s high expectations for tending treasure.

**ALL are invited to attend one of the Gather Bible Studies.**

**Patience Bible Study:** Monday, October 13,  
at 12:30 p.m.

**Ruth Bible Study:** Thursday, October 9, at  
10:00 a.m. in Room 1.



## COMING UP



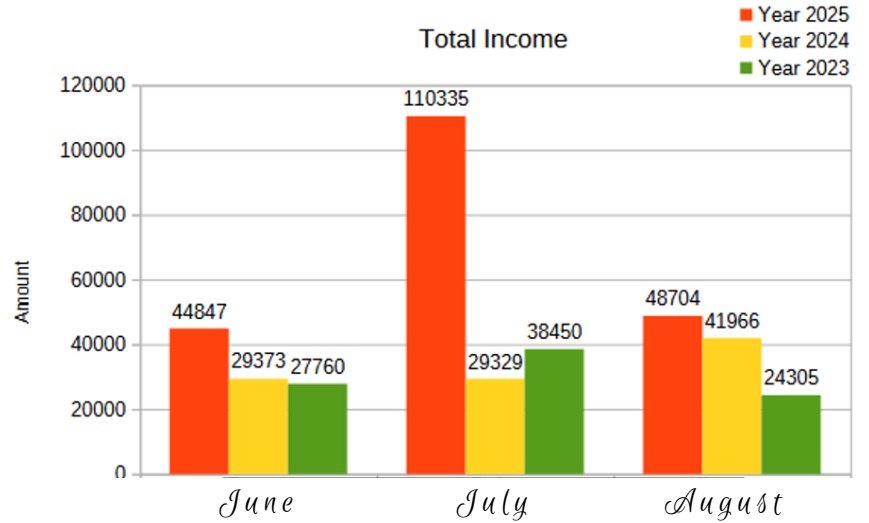
- **October 5 – Thankoffering and Blessing of the Mission Quilts**
- **November 14-15 - Pacifica W-ELCA Convention & Gathering**  
At Clairemont Lutheran Church  
**Theme:** “Here I Am, Send Me”  
**Theme Verse:** Isaiah 6:8
- **Love Gifts** will be collected for CCSA (Community Christian Service Agency). Registration is available in September. See Harriet Morris for more information. *Requested items include gift cards for Walmart and Target, one-pound bags of rice, one-pound bags of beans (any kind), and cans of fruit and vegetables (any size or type).*

# Church Business

## June, July, August Comparison of years 2023, 2024, 2025

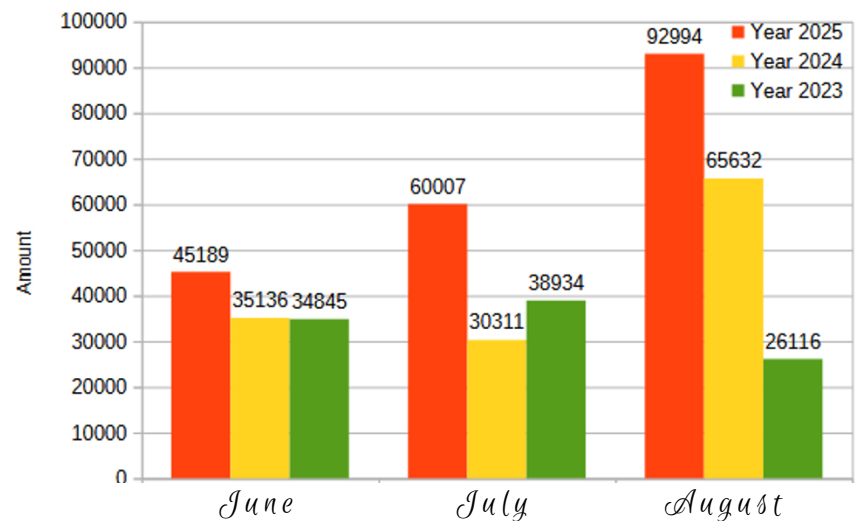
### Total income

|   |        | 2025   | 2024  | 2023  |
|---|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| 6 | June   | 44847  | 29373 | 27760 |
| 7 | July   | 110335 | 29329 | 38450 |
| 8 | August | 48704  | 41966 | 24305 |



### Total Expenses

|   |        | 2025  | 2024  | 2023  |
|---|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| 6 | June   | 45189 | 35136 | 34845 |
| 7 | July   | 60007 | 30311 | 38934 |
| 8 | August | 92994 | 65632 | 26116 |



## Pacifica Women of the ELCA Annual Gathering

Have you ever thought about attending the Pacifica Women of the ELCA Annual Convention, but thought it was too far away, too expensive, or inconvenient to be away for a whole weekend?

That has changed for this year because it is being held in our own backyard at *Clairemont Lutheran Church.*



**November 14-15, 2025**

**Theme: "Here I Am, Send Me"**

**Theme Verse: Isaiah 6:8**

**For questions, more information, or to get a Registration Form, See Harriet Morris or Janet Wood.**

➔ It all begins on **Friday afternoon, November 14**, with registration beginning at 2:00 p.m. The evening officially begins with dinner at 5:00 p.m., followed by a short program from our own Special Needs Choir. The Business Meeting will follow, with the primary purpose being to elect a Vice President, Treasurer, and Board Members.

➔ **Saturday, November 15** includes a Continental Breakfast, Bible Study, Workshops, Box Lunch, and will end with Worship.

**The cost for both days, three meals, and a whole lot of fun and fellowship is only \$85.**

*If you are unable to attend on Friday, there is a reduced registration cost for Saturday, November 15, of only \$40 This includes both the Continental Breakfast and the Box Lunch plus all the programming of the day.*

Many women from Clairemont Lutheran Church have attended the annual conventions over the years and find them very inspirational and uplifting. We've also met and stayed in touch with women from throughout the Pacifica Synod, including Hawaii. Think about attending even if you have NEVER participated in any Women of the ELCA events previously. Come and see what we are all about and the fun we can have.

## CLC/ILC MEN'S GROUPS



Meet once a month for fellowship, usually breakfast, and collaboration on various church projects.

**All men ages 15 and up are welcome to come.**

If you are interested in joining, please contact James Acosta or leave a message in the front office.

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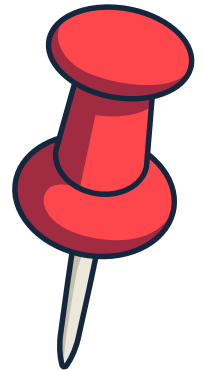
## Share Your Stories with The Clarion!

Have photos, event highlights, ministry updates, or personal reflections?

We'd love to include them in The Clarion! Help us tell the story of our church community.

✉ Send submissions to: [clarion.editor@clairemontlc.org](mailto:clarion.editor@clairemontlc.org)

📅 **Monthly deadline: the 20th**



# BEYOND THE PEWS

*Living the Word wherever we go.*



## Fellowship, Fun & Home Runs

We wrapped up the regular season in the best way possible! It was an awesome time hanging out, laughing, and making memories together. Thanks to everyone who came out — let's do it again next season! 



*WE ARE IN  
playoffs!*





## THANK YOU

**A gigantic thank you from the Mission Quilters for those who participated in moving all the boxes and bins from the home of Ruth Andersen to their New Space, Room 4 in Luther Hall.**

An additional thank you to the many who stepped up the following day and relocated all the Mission Quilts and Piece & Sew boxes from the storage area in the sanctuary, also to Room 4. It was overwhelming seeing all the help from a last-minute announcement during the church service,



Pictures of what Room 4 looked like with all the quilt supplies.

For both moving days, a few were asked to help, but many more just stepped up, for which we are more than grateful. A special thank you to Jeff Archer because it was his pickup that facilitated the move of all the boxes and bins from Ruth's house in one trip.



A picture of those helping move all the boxes and bins from Ruth's home.

Another special thank you to Ruth for opening up her home for five years while we continued to create many beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The coffee pot was always on, and conversation was unending.

As you can see from the pictures, there is more organization now, so if you ever see the door open, please stop by, say hello, or tie a knot.

**Again, many thanks to all who helped (too numerous to list).  
We are truly Blessed at Clairemont and truly appreciative of your generosity of time.**

# CLC Volunteer Schedule - October

## Lay Readers

10/5 Arlene Riordan  
10/12 Lorri Carlsen  
10/19 Rob Constantine  
10/26 Susan Gjerset



## Communion Assistants

10/5 Rita Leatherman, Pam Allen, Harriet Carmona, Gary Lange  
10/12 Nancy & Sarah Groesbeck  
10/19 Carol Nichols, Harriet Morris, Holly Boyle, Bill Fredricks  
10/26 Gary Jaus, Aida Jaus

## Welcome Team

10/5 Pam Allen, Sandra Logan, Curtis Cline, Thomas Knepple  
10/12 Gary Lange, Kathy Reed, Emilie Lauchmen  
10/19 Harriet Carmona, Renée Shepherd, Pam Allen  
10/26 Sandra Logan, Curtis Cline, Karen Creusere



10/5 Janet Wood  
10/12 Groot Family  
10/19 Holly Timms  
10/26 Teresa Muñoz

## Media Team

10/5 Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little  
10/12 Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little  
10/19 Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little  
10/26 Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little



*Peggy Ritchie  
& Holly Boyle*

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Linda Isley          | 10/2  |
| Daniel Solomon       | 10/3  |
| Jeremiah Purba       | 10/4  |
| Robin Pistelak       | 10/7  |
| Pastor Manuel Borbón | 10/8  |
| Leonard Sonnenberg   | 10/9  |
| Tim Neal             | 10/11 |
| Bonnie Jackson       | 10/11 |
| Elaine Erickson      | 10/11 |
| Linda Juengel        | 10/13 |
| Anna Bailey          | 10/14 |
| Barbara Fiorina      | 10/14 |
| Crystal Reece        | 10/17 |
| Ruth Andersen        | 10/19 |
| Janet Wood           | 10/21 |
| Linda Wolfendon      | 10/21 |
| Kathy Olson          | 10/23 |
| Sandra Higgins       | 10/23 |
| Gabriel Morales      | 10/26 |
| Arlene Riordan       | 10/27 |
| Adrian Mendoza       | 10/28 |
| David Jorstad        | 10/28 |
| Sandra Logan         | 10/29 |
| Vee Dotts            | 10/30 |
| Lydia Gomez          | 10/31 |



# OCTOBER 2025

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                         | Mon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Tue                                                                                                                                        | Wed                                                                          | Thu                                                                                                                         | Fri                                                                                          | Sat                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                            | <b>1</b><br>4:00pm Stephen<br>Ministry<br>7-9:30pm<br>Sacra Profana          | <b>2</b><br>8:00am Sandwich<br>Ministry<br>1:00pm AA Meeting<br>1:15-2:30pm Southern<br>Care group<br>4:00pm Stephen Minis- | <b>3</b><br>12:00pm Food<br>Distribution<br>1:00pm AA<br>6:00pm Al-<br>Anon                  | <b>4</b><br>7:00am SA<br>11am Lana<br>Neuman<br>Memorial service                                   |
| <b>5</b> <b>ThanksOffering/ Blessing of the Quilts</b><br>9:30am Worship Service<br>11:30am Servicio de Adoración en Español,<br>1:00 The Messengers<br>1:30pm Rise & Shine | <b>6</b> 1:00pm AA<br>5-6pm Glee Choir,<br>4:00pm Gospel Study<br>6:30pm Scouts<br>6-7pm Esperanza<br>Youth Choir<br>7:30- 9pm Sanctuary<br>Choir<br>8:00pm AA Meeting                                                                  | <b>7</b><br>1:00pm AA<br>5-6:30pm Girl Scouts<br>6:30pm Cub scouts<br>7:00pm Al-Anon                                                       | <b>8</b><br>12-2:30pm<br>Southern Care<br>group<br>7-9:30pm<br>Sacra Profana | <b>9</b><br>8:00am Sandwich Min.<br>1:00pm AA Meeting<br>10:00am Ruth bible<br>study<br>1:15-2:30pm Southern<br>Care group  | <b>10</b><br>12:00pm Food<br>Distribution<br>1:00pm Bunco<br>1:00pm AA<br>6:00pm Al-<br>Anon | <b>11</b><br>7:00am SA<br>1:00pm<br>Tom Groot's<br>Memorial                                        |
| <b>12</b><br>9:30am Worship Service<br>11:30am Servicio de Adoración en Español,<br>1:00pm Blessing of the Animals<br>1:00 The Messengers<br>1:30pm Rise & shine            | <b>13</b> 1:00pm AA<br>12:30pm Patience bible<br>study, 4:00pm Gospel Study<br>5-6pm Glee Choir,<br>6:30pm Scouts<br>6-7pm Esperanza<br>Youth Choir, 7:30- 9pm<br>Sanctuary Choir ,<br>7-9:30pm<br>Sacra / Profana<br>8:00pm AA Meeting | <b>14</b><br>1:00pm AA<br>4:30pm Evangelism team<br>6:30pm Executive Team<br>6:30pm Cub scouts<br>7:00pm Al-Anon<br>7:15pm Council Meeting | <b>15</b><br>4:00pm Stephen<br>Ministry<br>7-9:30pm<br>Sacra / Profana       | <b>16</b><br>8:00am Sandwich Min.<br>1:00pm AA Meeting<br>1:15-2:30pm Southern<br>Care group<br>6:30pm Worship<br>committee | <b>17</b><br>12:00pm Food<br>Distribution<br>1:00pm AA<br>6:00pm Al-<br>Anon                 | <b>18</b><br>7:00am SA<br>9-1pm WELCA<br>10:00am Bible<br>Give away<br>1-2:30pm Choir<br>rehearsal |
| <b>19</b> <b>Stewardship Sunday</b><br>9:30am Worship Service<br>11:30am Servicio de Adoración en Español,<br>1:00 The Messengers<br>1:30pm Rise & shine                    | <b>20</b><br>10-12pm Quilt pick up<br>1:00pm AA<br>4:00pm Gospel Study,<br>6:30pm Scouts<br>5-6pm Glee Choir,<br>6-7pm Esperanza<br>Youth Choir,<br>7:30- 9pm Sanctuary Choir<br>8:00pm AA Meeting                                      | <b>21</b><br>1:00pm AA<br>5-6:30pm Girl Scouts<br>6:30pm Cub scouts<br>7:00pm Al-Anon                                                      | <b>22</b><br>12-2:30pm<br>Southern Care group                                | <b>23</b><br>8:00am Sandwich Min.<br>1:00pm AA Meeting<br>1:15-2:30pm Southern<br>Care group                                | <b>24</b><br>12:00pm Food<br>Distribution<br>1:00pm AA<br>6:00pm Al-<br>Anon                 | <b>25</b><br>7:00am SA<br>11:00am<br>Gayle Hazel<br>Memorial                                       |
| <b>26</b> <b>Reformation Sunday</b><br>10:00am Bilingual service<br><b>(wear red)</b><br>1:00 The Messengers<br>1:30pm Rise & shine                                         | <b>27</b><br>1:00pm AA<br>4:00pm Gospel Study,<br>5-6pm Glee Choir,<br>6:30pm Scouts<br>6-7pm Esperanza<br>Youth Choir<br>7:30- 9pm Sanctuary Choir<br>8:00pm AA Meeting                                                                | <b>28</b><br>1:00pm AA<br>6:30pm Cub scouts<br>7:00pm Al-Anon                                                                              | <b>29</b><br>12-2:30pm<br>Southern Care group                                | <b>30</b><br>8:00am Sandwich Min.<br>1:00pm AA Meeting<br>1:15-2:30pm Southern<br>Care group                                | <b>31</b><br>12:00pm Food<br>Distribution<br>1:00pm AA<br>6:00pm Al-<br>Anon                 |                                                                                                    |