



The Clarion

Our mission is to welcome everyone, celebrate God's grace, and grow together as one church expressed in two languages.

Welcome to

CLAIREMONT LUTHERAN CHURCH IGLESIA LUTERANA



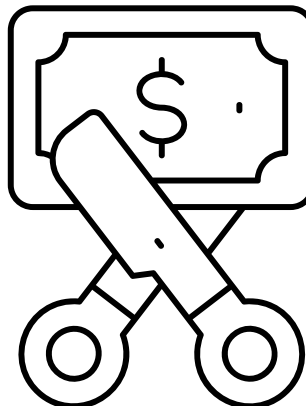
ONE BODY. ONE MISSION.
Trusting God in a new season.

Dear Church Family,

Over the past few weeks, God has been gracious in leading new staff to our church. Please keep our dear Tanya Buchanan as we share farewell at the same time we welcome our new CLC Financial Assistant, Denise Stagg, and our new CLC Administrative Assistant, Aileen Dominguez-Harter.

Each new team member represents both an answered prayer and an investment in the future of our ministry. With these blessings, however, also comes a fresh call to stewardship — one that invites all of us to walk in faith, wisdom, and unity.

As your Senior Pastor, I want to share openly that we are entering a season of financial austerity. This does not mean a season of fear or scarcity, but a season of intentional, prayerful tightening of our expenses so that we can move toward healthier, more sustainable congregational finances.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

English – 9:30 am

Español – 11:30 am

Ministry Staff

Senior Pastor: Manuel Borbon

Cell: 971-533-5874

pastor.manuel@clairemontlc.org

Associate Pastor: Elena Enriquez

Cell: 858-248-7898

iglesialuterana@clairemontlc.org

Church Office: Tanya Buchanan

Office: 858-273-7423

clc@clairemontlc.org

Children & Adult choirs:

Katy Lundeen

Cell: 760-807-6359

klundeen24@hotmail.com

Sunday School Coordinator

Grace Torres Kilpatrick

Cell: 858-688-3047

graceful.sundays@clairemontlc.org

Clarion Editor

clarion.editor@clairemontlc.org

**September 2026
CLARION DEADLINE
August 20 @ 4 p.m.**

Our leadership has been reviewing our budget line by line, trimming where we can, and making careful decisions to reduce costs while protecting the heart of our mission.

Practically, this may mean simpler Sunday bulletins, fewer purchases, postponed projects, and a renewed focus on the ministries that are most central to our calling as a church. Spiritually, I believe it is an invitation from the Lord—to trust Him more deeply, to live more simply, and to remember that the true richness of the church is not in its budget, but in its people, its faith, and its obedience to Christ.

I want to ask each of you to see yourselves as an essential part of this work. This is not “the church staff’s challenge” but **our** shared journey.

You can participate by praying regularly for wisdom for our leaders, by giving faithfully as the Lord enables you, and by offering your time, gifts, and encouragement as we adjust to these changes together.



My hope is that, when we look back on this season, we will not only see numbers that are healthier, but hearts that are deeper—more united, more generous, and more focused on what truly matters. May this be a time when we come together, support one another, and rediscover the joy of partnering with God and with each other in very tangible ways.

Thank you for your trust, your patience, and your love for our church. I am grateful to walk this road with you.

In Christ’s love,

P. Manuel Borbon



Calling all Bunco players!

Bunco is on a break for July and August. We will resume our regular schedule on the **second Friday of each month in September 2026.**



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!

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

Meet Aileena Dominguez-Harter

Our New Administrative Assistant

By Gary Jaus

On Wednesday, June 24th, **Aileena Dominguez-Harter** arrived for her first day of training as our new Administrative Assistant. Aileena was selected for the position after a review of her resume and an interview by an interview panel consisting of Pam Allen, Nancy Groesbeck, Laura Borbon, and me.

Aileena was born and raised in San Diego. She and her four siblings were raised primarily by their single mother, with Aileena being the oldest of the siblings. While growing up in Logan Heights, Aileena managed to spend countless hours playing in the sand at the Coronado Ferry landing, an area she described as her ‘babysitter.’ While little Aileena was playing in the sand, her mother would fish in the bay. As a result of her time spent by the bay, Aileena loves the ocean.

Aileena was raised Catholic, and two of her grandparents and an uncle were pastors. Aileena and her husband, Thomas, have been married for almost 22 years. Thomas works in the tech-security industry. They have a 22-year-old daughter named Taviyanne or ‘Tavi’ for short, and a 16-year-old son named Tomas. When Aileena’s mother was diagnosed with cancer, Aileena became her caretaker. Aileena had just turned 21 years old when her mother passed away.



Aileena has always treasured her family and their family time together. Their family usually has family dinners together every night. While Thomas worked, Aileena home-schooled both of her children. Homeschooling her children was challenging due to the school district regulations, but Aileena found she loved the challenge and the blessing of having her children close by.

Aileena attended Western Governors University (WGU) online and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources. She has subsequently earned a Master of Science in Human Resource Management. She has also joined the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS).

I asked Aileena if she had any hobbies. She replied, “I like gardening, arts, crafts, painting, and roller-skating. Her favorite places to roller skate are Balboa Park and Liberty Station. I asked Aileena if her family had any pets; she paused, then said, “We have six dogs, a guinea pig, a rabbit, and a really large tortoise.” I told her I was glad she hadn’t said she had snakes, and she replied, “My husband has two snakes.” UGH!

In her panel interview, Aileena’s warm and engaging personality began to shine through. She came across as friendly, relaxed, and a good communicator. She is also bilingual. As I was leaving the office after the interview, I turned and asked Aileena if she was a baseball fan. She said she wasn’t a big fan, but she would always support the Padres because she always supports the home team. Way to go Aileena!!

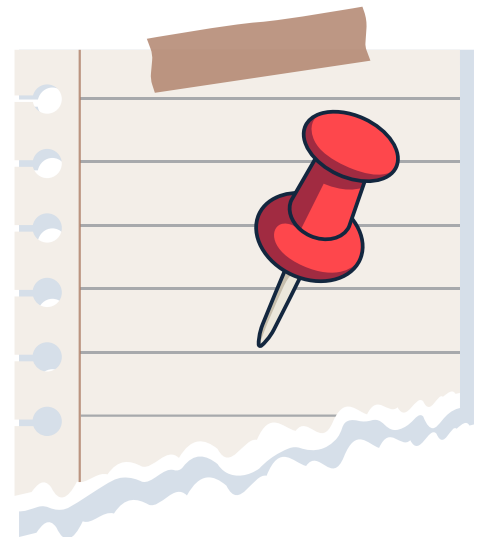
If you have time over the next few weeks, stop by the office and introduce yourself. She’s looking forward to meeting you.

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
📅 **Monthly deadline: the 20th**



The Story of the Cherry Tree

By Bill Fredericks

Memorial Day weekends bring back many memories. One memory was about when my CPA friends and families went camping as a group for 20 straight years. On our way to the campground, we stopped at a roadside fruit stand and bought several bags of luscious black cherries. As we sat around the campfire, we competed to see who could spit the seeds farthest. By Monday morning, the cherries were all gone, and seeds littered the ground. On our way home, we stopped and bought more.



Another memory is from my childhood. My Father owned our home that was next to a grave headstone business. The shop was in the back, and the display lot was toward the street. In the display lot were several cherry trees that provided welcome shade, but when the cherries ripened and fell onto the stone, they dirtied the marble and had to be cleaned. Then the owner, Joe Mark, asked my father to have our family climb the trees and harvest the fruit for our own use. Of course, our routine was “one for the bucket and one for the belly.” Those that went into the bucket became cherry jam for next winter.”

Then I thought of the story about another man, Zacchaeus, who was up in a tree. We find his story in Luke 19:1. Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” ⁹Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

Here are the notes from a time when I addressed this Gospel story for a Bible study. My source was: “New Cambridge Bible Commentary on the Gospel of Luke”.

Jesus was passing through Jericho on his way to Jerusalem, which was about 18 miles away (about a two-day walk). Jesus stops to engage a fellow named Zacchaeus who was both a chief tax collector and rich. Jesus meets Zacchaeus neither in the toll booth nor in the Temple, but on the road. Zacchaeus runs ahead of the crowd and climbs a sycamore tree on the route Jesus is taking. Instead of the perch being a place from which Zacchaeus can see him, Jesus stops, looks up, and sees Zacchaeus. More than just notice him, Jesus calls to him by name. Even more, just as the tax collector hurried to find a good vantage point, so Jesus insists that he now hurry and come down. Finally, Jesus demands that Zacchaeus be his host for the day. Zacchaeus immediately and happily obeys these commands.

The crowd grumbles, since Jesus has determined to eat with a “sinner”. The crowd’s concern is not ritual purity but political loyalty: the people presume Zacchaeus to be a sinner because he takes goods from the Jewish people and gives them to Rome.

Although he speaks to Jesus, Zacchaeus is also heard by the crowd. The chief tax collector affirms that he gives half of his possessions to the poor, and if he happens to have misused his position, he makes restitution of four times the amount.



Although usually seen as Zacchaeus’ moment of repentance, the verbs are all in the present tense (“I give” and “I pay back” in contrast to the NRSV’s “I will give” and “I will pay back”). Perhaps Zacchaeus is already doing these things. If so, Jesus has provided him the public forum to state what he has always done and thereby to reinstate his positive reputation with the crowds.

By labeling Zacchaeus a “Son of Abraham,” Jesus reinforces his membership in the community. Zacchaeus keeps his day job; he remains a chief tax collector. The scene closes with the general assertion that Jesus, here called “Son of Man,” comes to seek and save the lost. Although identified as a “rich man,” Zacchaeus is not condemned. Because he uses his funds not only to host Jesus but also to help the poor, he shows that the rich, through divine grace and appropriate income distribution, can enter the kingdom.

God is so good. I am so very thankful for your prayerful sending me off to journey across the country to live with family in Florida for 6 months.

Your offerings to help in any way, cards received, and especially the farewell hugs are all appreciated.

I will miss you all,
and you will always
be in my thoughts
and prayers.



Please call the office if you want my forwarding address.

Our Lord Jesus is forever and promises us eternal
life with Him.

Blessings,

Ruth Andersen



Summer Gather Bible Study: “I am Worthy”
By the Rev. Sara Olson Smith

This summer, Women of the ELCA participants will gather in Des Moines, Iowa, under the theme **“I am worthy.”** When Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee spoke in 2017, she invited WELCA participants to reclaim space for women and girls to lead and love in bold ways. This three-part Bible study will help us to define who we are, what we can be, and what we do in the world, in light of our God-given giftedness, identities, and relationships.

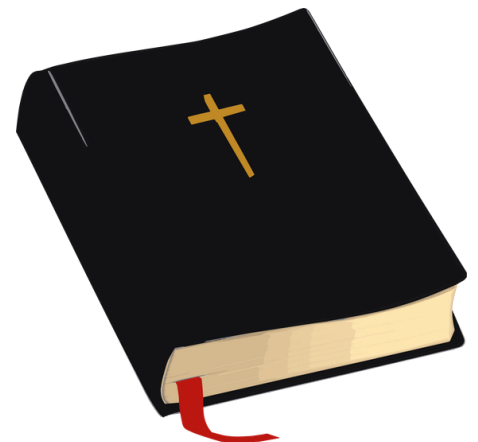
The theme for the 2026 Triennial Gathering is based on Psalm 139:14: “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” This statement serves as a reminder of God’s promise to be with us, even in times of devastation and division. By repeating the phrase **“I am worthy,”** we can recognize the Holy Spirit’s ongoing work in our lives. This practice of self-affirmation opens up opportunities for healing and restoration within ourselves, our church, society, and the world. When we declare, “I am worthy,” we align ourselves with God’s promises. There is great power in our resolve.

ALL are invited to attend the Gather Bible Study.

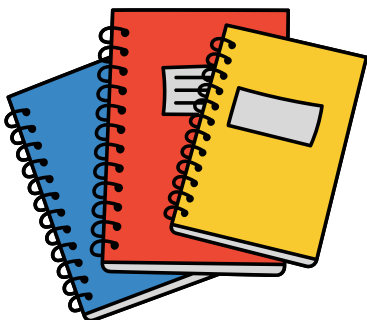
Session Two: July 14 – 10:30 a.m.: Bible Study Leader will be Pastor Elena.

“I am more than one thing: Honoring our many identities.”

In her TED talk, “The Danger of a Single Story,” Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie names this truth: We are much more than one thing. All of us have intersecting identities, roles and responsibilities. Beyond our ethnicity, the color of our skin or our birthplace, we may also be a sister, a mother, a daughter, a friend. We have various vocations, hobbies and joys.



In this session, we'll explore how the multiple identities of several women in Scripture shape their faithful living. Esther is not just a queen, but a niece, as well as part of an oppressed community of faith. Ruth is so much more than just a widow. Mary Magdalene has more identities than can fit within the allowed word count of this paragraph. So do you!



CCSA BACK TO SCHOOL

CCSA will be offering backpacks and school supplies to children in need as they start the school year. We will support them and provide fully packed backpacks.

**A flyer with the List of Needed Items
will be in the Narthex.**

All donations, including monetary donations, need to be **collected by July 26. Sunday, August 2,** between services, we will assemble backpacks.

Please contact **Heidi Acosta** with questions at 858-373-8634.

Thank you for your support!



**SAN DIEGO CHORISTERS GUILD AND
CLAIREMONT LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRESENT:
17TH ANNUAL SUMMER MUSICAL
THEATRE CAMP!**

**THE ROCKSLINGER AND HIS GREATEST HIT
(THE STORY OF DAVID AND GOLIATH)
BY ALLEN POTE**

Monday July 13th-Friday July 17th

9:30am-3:30pm

Free extended care available

Tuition \$100 Scholarships available

Performance Friday July 17th 7:30pm

For more information contact

Katy Lundeen:

klundeen24@hotmail.com

Clairemont Lutheran Church

4271 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

San Diego, 92117

(858) 273-7423

CROSSWORD ANSWERS (Clarion Issue #6)

Seasonal First Stanzas, Part II

Living Lutheran Spring 2026.
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ELCA.”



A dose of humor...

*What did God do to
cure Moses'
headache?*

HE GAVE HIM TWO TABLETS.



3 down,
3 more to go!
Get your
tickets
before
they're gone!





Clairemont
Lutheran Church



FELLOWSHIP, FUN & HOME RUNS

Hang out and enjoy the
company of the CLC community

FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFO CONTACT OUR
OFFICE AT (858) 273-7423
MUST RSVP 30 DAYS PRIOR TO GAME DAY

2026 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

- ✓ ~~7/7 vs. Dbacks 6:40PM~~
- ✓ ~~7/11 vs. Brewers 6:40PM~~
- ✓ ~~7/15 vs. Nationals 6:40PM~~
- ✓ 7/7 vs. Dbacks 6:40PM
- ✓ 8/11 vs. Brewers 6:40PM
- ✓ 9/8 vs. Nationals 6:40PM

MINISTRY OF HOLY COMMUNION VISITATION

Our church has several people (team) in this ministry who carry out a celebration of Holy Communion. We visit and take Holy Communion to members who are homebound, in a care facility, or in a hospital.

If you know of anyone who might want a visit, please contact **Kathy Reed** or leave a message with **Aileena in the office**.

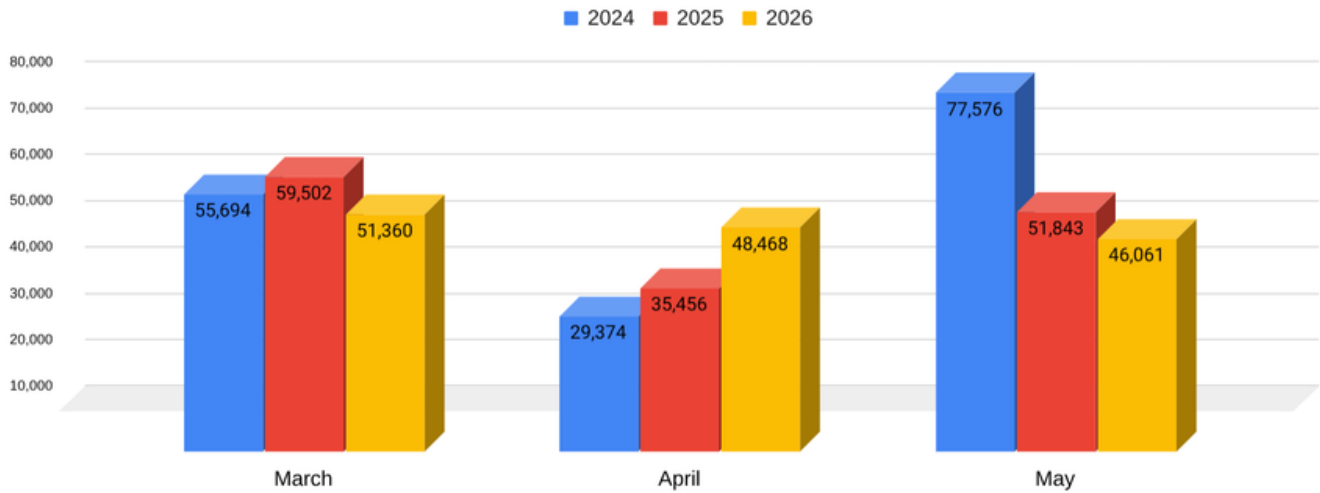
Remember that the ministry of caring is at the heart of the church's life.



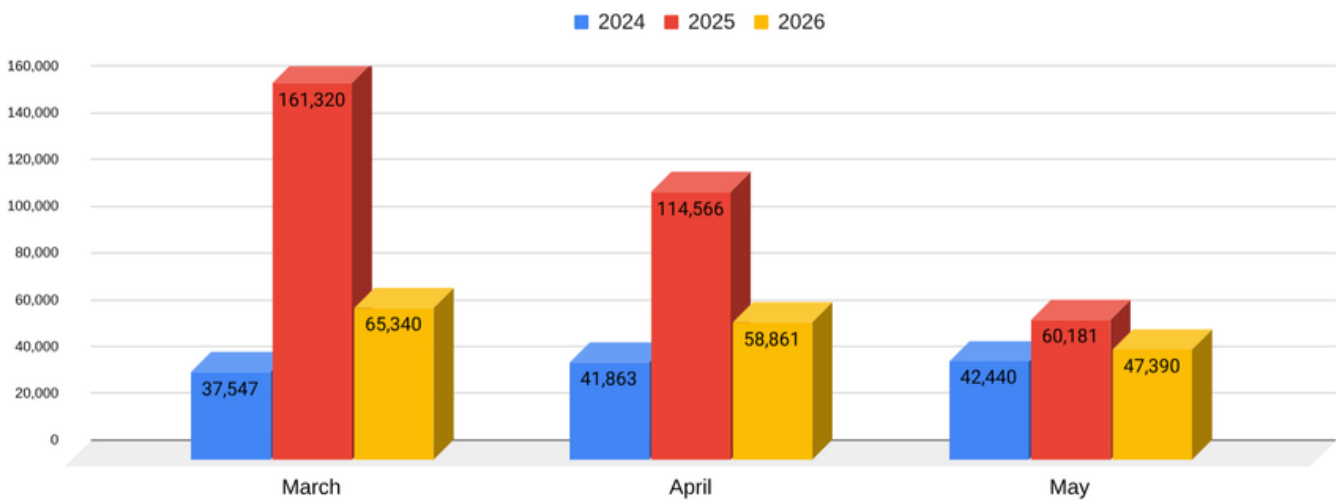
Church Business

March, April, May Comparison of years 2024, 2025, 2026

Total Income



Total Expenses



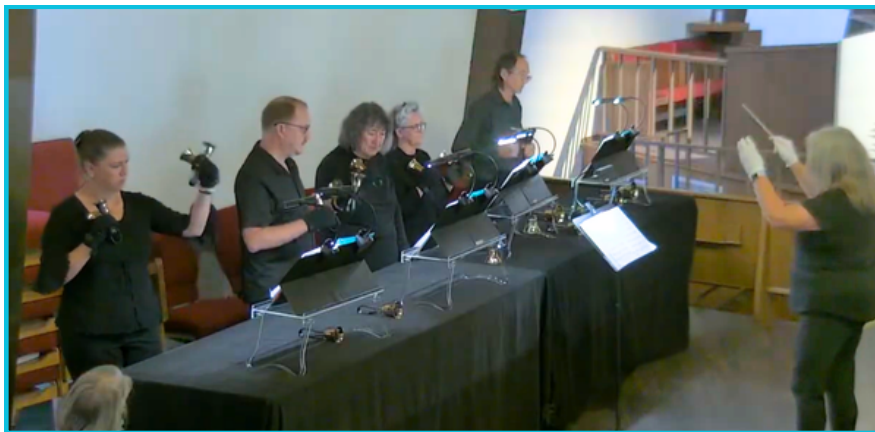
BEYOND THE PEWS

Living the Word wherever we go.



The Campanile Ringers are in the house!

On June 7, the Campanile Ringers joined us for a wonderful morning of music! You may have also noticed our updated liturgical setup, which allows music to be shared from both sides of the sanctuary. This new arrangement enhances the worship experience by surrounding the congregation with sound and creating a greater sense of participation in worship.



Looking for chess contenders ♟

From the creators of the Ice Cream Ministry... could this be the start of a chess club? Just thinking out loud for now.

In the meantime, if you know how to play, come join these two for a friendly match!



Farewell, dear Ruth. ❤️

On June 14, we said goodbye to our long-time friend and church member, **Ruth Andersen**, as she relocates to Florida to be closer to her family. We give thanks for her life among us and for the beautiful send-off shared by our church community.

During her years here, Ruth faithfully served in many ways, including Stephen Ministry, Sunday School teaching, quilting. etc. She was always ready to help and support others, and her presence will be greatly missed.

We hold her in our prayers as she begins this new chapter!



“Fellowship, Fun & Home Runs” ⚾️

On June 23, we attended our third game of the season—an exciting matchup against the Atlanta Braves.

The energy was high from start to finish, and we had a special surprise when Kathy Reed’s family joined us all the way from... yes, Atlanta!

They generously cheered for the Padres all evening, though we suspect there were some loyal Atlanta jerseys quietly hidden underneath 🤫

A fun night of fellowship, friendly rivalry, and plenty of baseball memories!



Hands and Hearts at Work

SHINING LIGHT ON THOSE WHO SERVE



Tanya's Send-Off: ♥

Words from Pastor Manuel (shared during our June 14 service)

It has been my privilege, and I can also speak on behalf of our congregation when I say that we are truly blessed and thankful for the years of service we have shared with you. We are grateful not only to have had you as part of our staff team, but also as part of our church family — sharing in joyful and happy moments, and also coming together to move forward through challenging and difficult times.

In the same way that you have been a blessing to our church, we recognize that God is now calling you to be a blessing to many more people.

This past year and a half has given me the opportunity to not only appreciate your friendship, but also to recognize how special you are and how deeply loved you are by our congregation. Thank you so much for your years of service, for your trust and commitment, and for the professionalism, love, and care you have shown day by day to our congregation.



July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am Piece & Sew 12:30 southern Care	2 8am Sandwich Ministry 10am MorningStar 1pm AA Meeting	3 8am – 12pm Food Distribution 1pm AA 6pm Al-Anon	4 7am SA 
5 9:30am Worship Service 11:30am Servicio de Adoración en Español	6 1pm AA 8pm AA Meeting	7 1pm AA 7pm Al-Anon 6:30pm Padre Game	8 12:30pm southern Care 5:30pm Suppers at the beach 	9 8am Sandwich Ministry 1pm AA Meeting 5:30pm Youth Group	10 8-12pm Food Distribution 1pm AA 6pm Al-Anon	11 7am SA
12 9:30am Worship Service 11:30am Servicio de Adoración en Español	13 1pm AA 8pm AA Meeting	14 10:30 Summer Gather Bible study 1pm AA 4:30pm Evangelism team 6:30pm Executive Team 7pm Al-Anon 7:15pm Council meeting 7pm Al-Anon 21	15 12:30pm Southern care 5:30pm Suppers at the beach	16 8am Sandwich Ministry 1pm AA Meeting	17 8am – 12pm Food Distribution 1pm AA 6:00pm Al-Anon	18 7am SA
19 20 9:30am Worship Service 11:30am Servicio de Adoración en Español	20 1pm AA 8pm AA Meeting	21 1pm AA 6:40pm Padre game 7pm Al-Anon	22 12:30pm Southern care 5:30pm Suppers at the beach	23 8am Sandwich Ministry 1pm AA Meeting 5:30pm Youth Group	24 8-12pm Food Distribution 1pm AA 6pm Al-Anon	25 7am SA
26 9:30am Worship Service 11:30am Servicio de Adoración en Español	27 1pm AA 8pm AA Meeting	28 1pm AA, 8pm AA Meeting 7pm Al-Anon	29 12:30pm Southern care 5:30pm Suppers at the beach	30 8am Sandwich Ministry 1pm AA Meeting	31 8-12pm Food Distribution 1pm AA 6pm Al-Anon	

CLC Volunteer Schedule - July / August



Lay Readers

July 5 & Aug 2	Karen Creusere, Lynn Ten Eyck / Binita Martinez, Lili Munoz
July 12 & Aug 9	Emilie Lauchmen / Arlene Riordan
July 19 & Aug 16	Chelsea Lundeen, Susan Gjerset / Lorri Carlsen, Rob Constantine
July 26 & Aug 23	Gary Lange / Janet Wood
Aug. 30	Karen Creusere, Gabriel Morales

Communion Assistants



July 5 & Aug 2	Bonita Martinez, Gary Lange, Holly Boyle, Sandra Logan
July 12 & Aug 9	Nancy Groesbeck, Sarah Groesbeck
July 19 & Aug 16	Pam Allen, Josua Purba, Rohany Purba, Curtis Cline
July 26 & Aug 23	Gary & Aida Jaus
Aug. 30	Pam Allen, Sandra Logan (Bilingual service)

Welcome Team

July 5 & Aug 2	Pam Allen, Tom Knepple, Curtis Cline
July 12 & Aug 9	Emilie Lauchmen, Gary Lange, Sandra Logan
July 19 & Aug 16	Teresa & Gabriel Munoz, Nancy Groesbeck, Emilie Lauchmen
July 26 & Aug 23	Sandra Logan, Gary Lange, Kathy Reed
Aug. 30	(Bilingual service) The Purba family, Emilie Lauchmen



July 5 & Aug 2	
July 12 & Aug 9	
July 19 & Aug 16	
July 26 & Aug 23	Ray and Ardell Skoglund (23rd)
Aug. 30	



July 2 & Aug 2	Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little
July 9 & Aug 9	Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little
July 16 & Aug 16	Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little
July 23 & Aug 23	Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little
Aug. 30	Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little



Christina	Herfindahl	7/1
Jacob	Herfindahl	7/1
Mark	Onstad	7/1
Maggie	Oregon	7/2
Jennifer	Brewer	7/5
Leighton	Steele-English	7/6
Cynthia	Jorstad	7/8
Elizabeth	Leatherman	7/11
Karla	Carrizalez	7/12
Cristina	Ventura	7/12
Carmen	Mendoza	7/17
Becky	Newhouse	7/18
Peter	Gjerset	7/19
Adam	Timms	7/21
Corey	Goldenstein	7/21
Nivek	Valentan	7/22
Linda	TenEyck	7/26
Mary	Polk	7/29
Emily	Jones	7/31



Harriet	Morris	8/5
Paul	Wilfong	8/13
Jeff	Archer	8/13
Itha	Yost	8/16
Sarah	Colson-Kegel	8/18
Marian	Jenkins	8/19
Sarah	Solomon	8/26



July — Pam Allen, Sandra Logan
Aug. Sandra Logan, Rohany Purba