



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



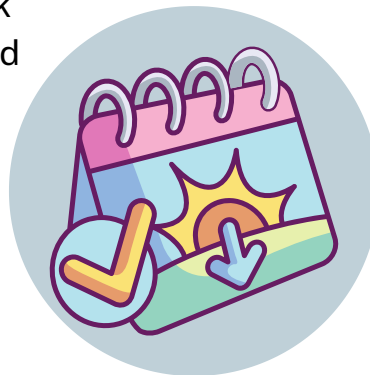
When Change Feels Hard

Dear Church Family,

As summer slowly gives way to fall, we see change all around us. The days grow shorter, the air turns cooler, school routines begin again, and familiar summer rhythms make room for something new. Nature reminds us that change is not always sudden; it often arrives gently, one day at a time.

For many in our church family, this season carries personal transitions as well. Some are sending children or grandchildren back to school. Some are adjusting to a quieter home. Others are walking through grief, illness, a relocation, or questions about what the future may hold. Even welcome changes can stir feelings of loss, uncertainty, or fear.

The good news is that we do not walk through changing seasons alone. God remains faithful in every transition. As Ecclesiastes reminds us, "For everything there is a season" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). The God who carries us through summer's brightness is also present in fall's letting go.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

English – 9:30 am
Español – 11:30 am

Ministry Staff

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Clarion Editor
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**October 2026
CLARION DEADLINE
September 20 @ 4 p.m.**

Let us be attentive to one another in this season. Reach out to someone who may be facing a difficult change. Offer a prayer, share a meal, send a note, or simply listen. Together, we can become a community where every person is seen, supported, and reminded of God's steady love.

May this new season draw us closer to God and to one another.

United in prayer,

P. Manuel Berbon



A letter to our Congregation

By Carol Lauchmen (Emilie's mom)

Dear people of Clairemont Lutheran Church,

Thank you! Thank you for all that you do for Emilie, my daughter.

She's been so filled with purpose, joy, and comfort since becoming a member of the church and becoming involved in the church.

So many of your members have touched her heart and continue to do so. God's Love just runs through so many!

Thank you for accepting Em. Steering her a bit, giving her responsibilities that she can handle, and sharing lots of humor!

Love,

Carol Lauchmen

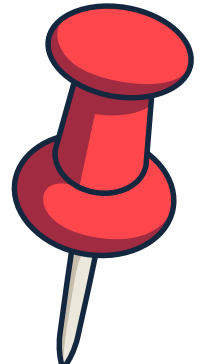
Share Your Stories with The Clarion!

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 Value of Change

By Bill Fredericks

Last week Pat and I watched a movie that we had first enjoyed decades ago. The movie featured the patriarch of a highly traditional society. The patriarch was aging, and to him there was no suitable candidate to train as his successor. His dilemma was finally resolved, but not before he finally understood that there would be no one acceptable unless he changed the rules about what defined a leader. That got me to thinking about change. One might say that our choice to watch that movie was serendipitous.



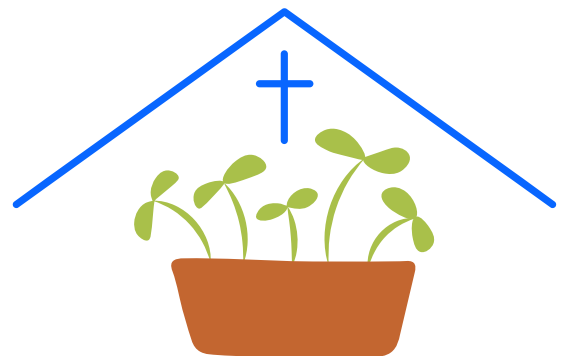
In the years when Pat and I grew up in Pennsylvania, there were two robust churches in our small town. One was the church my family attended, and the other was the one that Pat's family attended. Both congregations had strong attendance and active programs. Both said "No" to change. Today both churches are struggling.

I wrote an article for the September 2023 Clarion about the need for CLC/ILC to embrace change. I referenced a book written by Thom S. Rainer, "Autopsy of a Deceased Church," in which the author offered the message, "Change or Die."

In the succeeding years, how did CLCIL respond to that challenge? What changes did we make, and what differences do we see? Here are a few examples. We openly proclaim our Mission. That gives us purpose. On Sunday mornings, we scan the sanctuary and welcome new faces. Jesus' message is shared with everyone. Children sit on the steps for "Kids Time" and are active in Sunday school and Youth activities. Children are included. We strengthened our programs to feed the hungry with sandwiches and boxes of produce. God feeds us so we can share. And on and on.

We need to recognize that the future will bring more changes, and we will be called upon to embrace them.

With that mindset, Clairemont Lutheran Church - Iglesia Luterana will thrive.



“The Narthex – Part 1”

By Janet Wood

This article could be at least five pages long after doing online research on the word narthex, narthexes in Lutheran churches, the history of the narthex, architectural features of a narthex, etc. I will keep it within reason.

Here are a few highlights from my readings. “It’s a physical space that has the capacity to hold great spiritual significance for a church community.” “Not every person entering a narthex will be a church member or even a Christ-follower. This important space is where we offer friendly reception and hospitality.” “The architectural insight of the narthex can help a congregation craft an intentional time where attendees are blessed as they come and go.” “It can function as an information hub; churches often place announcement boards, sign-up sheets, guest books, and distribution materials in this area.”

When I’ve been in other churches, I felt that the narthex often revealed the “personality” of that church. For example, if I saw a cardboard box and a flyer that said canned food drive, I knew that feeding people in the community was important to them. If there was a collection basket for men’s new socks, seems like they were helping a homeless group.

Lastly, if there was a sign-up sheet to help with an upcoming event, it indicated that they were a busy and active church. If someone asked you to describe the “personality” of our narthex, what would be your answer?



Fall Gather Bible Study: “Bold faith on an unexpected journey”
by the Rev. Tiffany Cheney

Faith often leads us down paths we didn’t expect—into wilderness places, across unfamiliar lands, and through seasons of grief and hope. This three-session study takes us on a journey with Hagar, Ruth, and Mary Magdalene, women whose bold faith transformed their unexpected stories. Their encounters with God remind us that we, too, are seen, sustained, and sent to carry good news into the world.

Session 1: Encountering God in the wilderness
“I am more than one thing: Honoring our many identities.”

Scripture: Genesis 16:1–16; 21:8–21



Hagar, an enslaved woman pushed to the margins, encounters God in the wilderness. When she believes all hope is lost, God sees her, hears her and reshapes her story. Her witness reminds us that God meets us in deserted places with vision and promise. This session invites participants to consider who is marginalized in our world today and to reflect on how God sees both them and us in our own wilderness experiences.

ALL are welcome to attend.

Patience Gather Bible Study: Monday, September 14. 12:30 p.m.



COMING UP IN 2026



- **October 4, 2026** - Thankoffering Sunday and Blessing of the Quilts.
- **October 19, 2026** –Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Ingathering of the quilts.
- **Friday-Saturday, November 13-14** - Pacifica Synodical Women’s Convention and Gathering [Good Shepherd Lutheran, Buena Park].

CCSA BACK TO SCHOOL

We assembled 25 backpacks with school supplies on August 2. Two backpacks packed with supplies were donated, and all 27 were delivered to CCSA to distribute to children registered with the agency. Thank you to all who donated supplies and money to purchase backpacks and supplies, and to everyone who assembled backpacks. As of this writing, CCSA had received 850 backpacks and expressed their gratitude to the churches and community.

Thank you for your support!

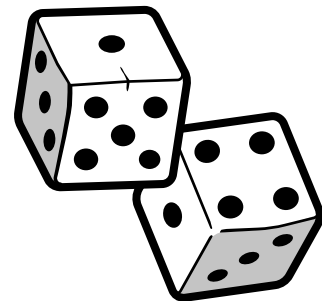


BUNCO is back!

When: **Friday, Sept. 11, 2026**
Where/Time: **Fellowship Hall; 1-3 p.m.**

\$5.00 donation for charity and prizes

We always meet on the 2nd Friday of the month.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday, October 4, 2026 *"Thankoffering" 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 Welca envelopes will be made available closer to Oct. 4th.)

The Mission Quilting Group will display the quilts they have made during the past several months throughout the sanctuary on Oct. 4th. They will be blessed during the service by Pastor Manuel. On the following day, they will be boxed, stored, and picked up by Lutheran World Relief on Monday, Oct. 19th. 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 in making them.



Symbolism in Our Sanctuary

By Bill Fredericks

The Vertical Window

The colors of the lowest point, not seen from the sanctuary, are greens and olives, signifying creation. The colors then progress through the blues, signifying the word of God; the reds of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion; the purples of Jesus' resurrection; and the ambers and yellows of eternal life.

The Empty Cross

The empty cross signifies our risen Lord. The message of the cross is also proclaimed from the cross at the top of the exterior tower, which rises high above the ground.

The Pulpit

Whenever the Gospel is rightly preached, and the Sacraments rightly administered, there the Church is. The pulpit symbolizes the authority of the church to preach the Word of God.



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.



SAN DIEGO PADRES 9/8 VS NATIONALS

Get your tickets before they're gone!



A dose of humor...

Where is the best place to get an ice cream cone?

SUMDAE SCHOOL.



CLC/ILC MEN'S GROUPS



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

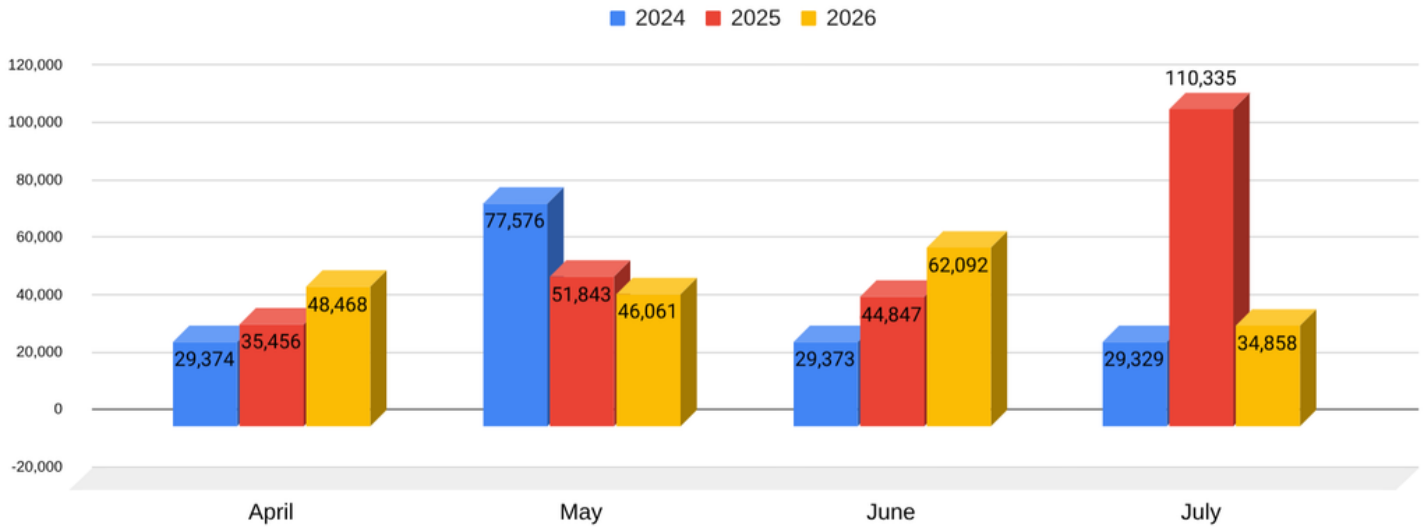
All men ages 15 and up are welcome!

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

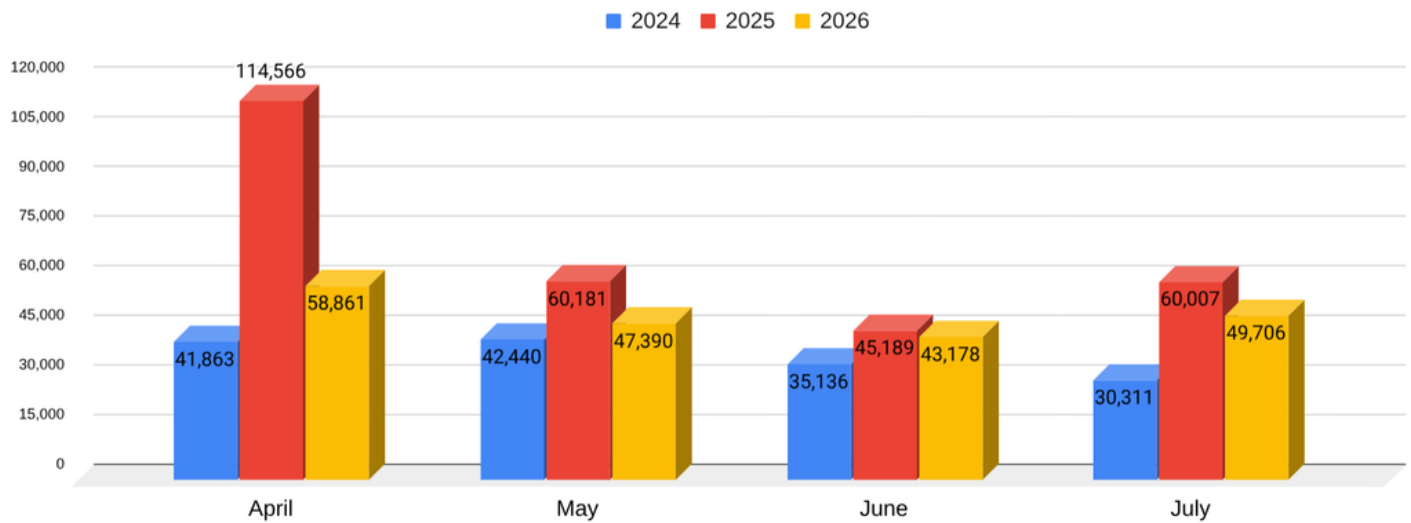
Church Business

April, May, June, July Comparison of years 2024, 2025, 2026

Total Income



Total Expenses



BEYOND THE PEWS

Living the Word wherever we go.



🎉🌟 The Annual Summer Musical Theatre Camp! 🌟🎉

From **July 13–17**, our church was filled with an amazing group of young performers for our annual **Summer Musical Theatre Camp**!

This year, our campers brought ***The Rockslinger and His Greatest Hit*** to life through music, laughter, creativity, and plenty of fun! 🎵🎭

And the best part? **They put on a fantastic performance!** We're especially grateful for the dedication, creativity, and leadership of our music ministry team, whose hard work made this memorable week possible. Their guidance and encouragement helped every camper shine!

We're so proud of all our campers and thankful to everyone who helped make this special week happen. ❤️



65 Years of Love & Grace ❤️💍

This week, we celebrated a beautiful milestone with the **Skoglunds: 65 years of marriage!** 🎉 They shared memories from their journey together and enjoyed a delicious lunch with our church community. As you can imagine, **we had to ask... What's the secret to 65 years of marriage?**

The answer? **No secret. Just love.** ❤️🙏

What a beautiful reminder that a life shared in love and faith is something worth celebrating. Here's to the Skoglunds and to many, many more years of love, laughter, and God's grace!



Suppers at the Beach

What a wonderful summer of Suppers at the Beach! Throughout the summer, we gathered for good food, fellowship, laughter, and special moments together.

Our final gathering brought the summer to a close with one more evening by the water. Along the way, we shared in traditions like our flag-burning ceremony and gathered in gratitude with the words of the Johnny Appleseed prayer: *"Oh, the Lord is good to me..."* 🍎 🙏

Thank you to everyone who made these evenings so special. See you next summer! 💙 🌴





“Fellowship, Fun & Home Runs” ⚾

On August 11, our church community gathered to cheer on the San Diego Padres as they took on the Brewers! We enjoyed a fun night of baseball, fellowship, and a special visit from **Harriet Carmona’s family**.

And what a game it was- **the Padres brought home an 11–2 victory!** Good company, great baseball, and a big win. What more could we ask for?



Hands and Hearts at Work

SHINING LIGHT ON THOSE WHO SERVE



A big thank-you to **David Fredericks** for using his skills to repair a trip hazard on our patio! 🛠️👏

We're grateful for David and for all the people who continually lend their time, talents, and skills to fix, maintain, and care for our church building. So much of what happens behind the scenes helps make our church a welcoming place for everyone.

And did you know? We now have a new *Property Committee!* The committee will help oversee the care and maintenance of our building and grounds.



Thank you to everyone who serves, your work makes a difference!

📖✨ Faith in the neighborhood!

Our Evangelism Committee hit the streets along Clairemont Mesa Blvd., sharing Bibles and spreading some joy with everyone! 🙌

The energy was contagious! Some people came for a Bible, while others got curious about our church and started asking the “**what ifs?**”—What if I stopped by? What if I joined? What if church could feel like this?



We say: **COME JOIN US!** Bring your best dance moves, good vibes, and don't forget the sunscreen.

Because sometimes, sharing faith starts with simply showing up, connecting, and opening the door to a conversation.

S · E · P · T · E · M · B · E · R 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30-10am CLC Staff Mtg. 1:00pm & 8pm AA 6:30pm Cub scouts 7:00pm Al-Anon	2 10am Piece & Sew 12:30pm Southern Care 5pm Steven Ministry 7-9:30 pm SP Rehearsal	3 8:00am Sandwich Ministry 10:00am MorningStar 1:00pm AA Meeting	4 8-12pm Food Distribution 1:00pm AA 6:00pm Al-Anon	5 7:00am SA
6 9:30am Worship Service 11:30am Servicio de Adoración en Español 1:30-2:30pm Rise & shine	7 OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY <i>Oficina cerrado en observancia del Día del trabajo</i>	8 9:30 -10am CLC Staff Mtg. 1:00pm & 8pm AA 4:30 Evangelism Team 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30 Handbells 6:30 Exec. Team 6:40 Padres Game 7pm Al-Anon 7:15pm Council Mtg. 7-9:30pm SP Rehearsal	9 12:30pm Southern Care 7-9:30pm SP Rehearsal	10 8:00am Sandwich Ministry 1:00pm AA 5:30pm Youth Group	11 8-12pm Food Distribution 1:00pm Bunco 1:00pm AA 6:00pm Al- Anon	12 7:00am SA
13 9:30am Worship Service 11:30am Servicio de Adoración en Español 1:30-2:30pm Rise & shine	14 12:30 Gather Bible Study 4:00pm & 8pm AA 4:00pm Gospel Study 5:30-6:30pm Glee Choir 6:30pm Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Esperanza Youth Choir 7:30 - 9pm Sanctuary Choir 7-9:30pm SP Rehearsal	15 9:30-10am CLC Staff Mtg. 1:00pm & 8pm AA 6:30pm Cub scouts 7:00pm Al-Anon	16 12:30pm Southern Care 5pm Steven Ministry 7-9:30pm SP Rehearsal	17 8:00am Sandwich Ministry 10:00am MorningStar 1:00pm AA 6:30pm Worship Committee	18 8-12pm Food Distribution 1:00pm AA 6:00pm Al-Anon	19 7:00am SA
20 9:30am Worship Service 11:30am Servicio de Adoración en Español 1:30-2:30pm Rise & shine	21 1:00pm & 8pm AA 5:30-6:30pm Glee Choir 6:30pm Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Esperanza Youth Choir 7:30 - 9pm Sanctuary Choir	22 9:30-10am CLC Staff Mtg. 1:00pm & 8pm AA 6:30pm Cub scouts 7:00pm Al-Anon	23 12:30pm Southern Care	24 8:00am Sandwich Ministry 1:00pm AA Meeting 5:30pm Youth Group	25 8-12pm Food Distribution 1:00pm AA 6:00pm Al-Anon	26 7:00am SA
27 9:30am Worship Service 11:30am Servicio de Adoración en Español 1:30-2:30pm Rise & shine	28 1:00pm & 8pm AA 5:30-6:30pm Glee Choir 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30-7:30pm Esperanza Youth Choir 7:30 - 9pm Sanctuary Choir	29 9:30-10am CLC Staff Mtg. 1:00pm & 8pm AA 6:30pm Cub scouts 7:00pm Al-Anon	30 12:30pm Southern Care			

CLC Volunteer Schedule – September 2026

Lay Readers

9/6	Lynn Ten Eyck, Lorri Carlsen
9/13	Chelsea Lundeen
9/20	Susan Gjerset, Gary Lange
9/27	Bonita Martinez



Communion Assistants

9/6	Bonita Martinez, Holly Boyle, Sandra Logan, Gary Lange
9/13	Purba Family, Pam Allen
9/20	Nancy Groesbeck, Sarah Broesbeck, Holly Boyle, Curtis Cline
9/27	Gary & Aida Jaus

Laura Borbon	9/4
Laura Garcia	9/5
Debra Pursel	9/10
David Olson	9/12
Kimberly Leatherman	9/12
Giselle Mendoza	9/13
MariChuy Valentan	9/13
Joanie Maske	9/13
Terry Beckmyer	9/17
Manfred Dittmann	9/17
Clohe Balderrama	9/20
Lewis TenHulzen	9/22
Leslie Timms	9/22
Elsie Brady	9/25
Maria Medrano	9/28
Lorri Carlsen	9/28

Welcome Team

9/6	Pam Allen, Tom Knepple, Curtis Cline
9/13	Gary Lange, Sandra Logan
9/20	Kathy Reed, Teresita & Gabriel Muñoz, Pam Allen
9/27	Purba Family, Sandra Logan



9/6	
9/13	June Andersen
9/20	
9/27	



9/6	Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little, Annamarya Martinez
9/13	Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little, Annamarya Martinez
9/20	Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little, Annamarya Martinez
9/27	Lewis John TenHulzen, Mitchell Little, Annamarya Martinez



Rita Leatherman
and
Harriet Carmona