



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 We Have a Concern: Living Matthew 18 Together

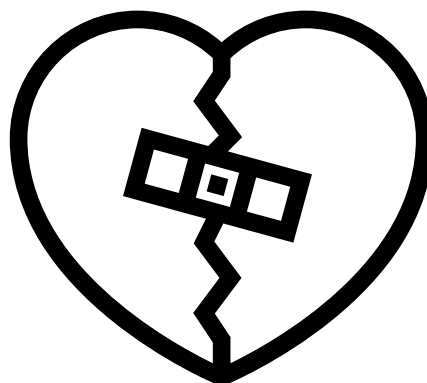
Dear Church Family,

One of the gifts (and challenges) of being part of a congregation is that we are a community of *real people*. We have different personalities, experiences, expectations, opinions, and ways of seeing things. Even when we love one another and share the same faith, we will sometimes disagree.

The question is not whether disagreements will happen. They will. The question is **how we respond when they do**.

Jesus gives us a simple and challenging framework in Matthew 18:15: ***"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone."***

This passage is often called the "Matthew 18 principle." At its heart is an invitation to **go directly to the person with whom we have a concern**, rather than allowing frustration, assumptions, or hurt to travel through the congregation.



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

Latino/ Associate Pastor: Elena Enriquez Cell: 858-248-7898
iglesialuterana@clairemontlc.org

Church Office: 858-273-7423
Aileena Dominguez - Harter
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

November 2026
CLARION DEADLINE
October 20 @ 4 p.m.

I recently came across an article entitled “*The Systemic Matthew 18 Problem in Lutheran Congregations*.” The author reflects on a pattern that can develop in churches when concerns about a pastor (or about another member of the congregation) are communicated indirectly.

Someone may say to a congregational leader, “People are unhappy about this,” or “Some people were upset by what the pastor said.” The leader then brings the concern to the pastor. The pastor may have no idea who was hurt, what exactly happened, or whether the person involved ever intended to cause harm.

Sometimes this happens because people genuinely want to protect relationships. They may be uncomfortable with confrontation. They may think they are helping by bringing a concern to someone else. They may even believe they are following an appropriate church process.

But something can happen along the way: **the people involved stop talking directly to one another.**

And when that happens, misunderstandings can grow.

The impact of indirect communication

As pastors, we know that criticism is part of ministry. No pastor will make everyone happy all the time. Pastors are human beings, and we will occasionally say something poorly, make a decision someone disagrees with, overlook something, or simply approach a situation differently than someone else would.

Healthy ministry requires that pastors be able to hear criticism, apologize when necessary, learn, and grow.

But pastors are also human beings.

Words spoken about us, assumptions made about our intentions, and concerns discussed with others can affect us deeply, especially when we don't have an opportunity to understand the concern or have a direct conversation with the person involved.

The same is true for every member of the congregation.

A comment that seems small to one person may be deeply painful to another. A conversation that feels like harmless venting can become something very different when it is repeated. A concern shared with one person can quickly become a story that many people believe without ever speaking to the person at the center of it.

This is one reason Jesus' teaching in Matthew 18 is so important.

Direct communication is not about avoiding conflict. It is about handling conflict in a way that gives relationships a chance to heal.

A congregation is a community, not a collection of sides

When we become frustrated with someone in the church, it can be tempting to find people who agree with us.

*"I'm not the only one who thinks this."
"Other people are saying the same thing."
"People are upset."*

Sometimes those statements are accurate. But they don't necessarily help us resolve the underlying concern.

Instead, they can unintentionally create sides.

Before long, a disagreement between two people can become a disagreement between groups of people. The original issue becomes harder to identify, and trust becomes harder to rebuild.

Our calling as Christians is different.

We are called to speak **truthfully and lovingly**. We are called to listen. We are called to give one another the benefit of the doubt. And we are called to remember that the person we are frustrated with is not our opponent; they are our sibling in Christ.

What might this look like at Clairemont Lutheran?

When something concerns us, perhaps our first question can be: **"Have I talked directly with the person involved?"**

If the answer is no, that may be the best place to begin.

If the answer is yes and the concern remains unresolved, there are appropriate ways to seek help. Pastors, council members, ministry leaders, and other trusted people can sometimes help facilitate a conversation. **There are also times when formal processes are necessary.**

But even then, our goal should not be to build a case against someone.

Our goal should be **understanding, reconciliation, accountability, and the health of the whole community.**

And this applies to all of us.

As your pastor, I want to be able to hear your concerns. I will not always get everything right, and I don't expect everyone to agree with me. If something I say or do hurts you, I would much rather have the opportunity to listen and talk with you than hear about it indirectly.

At the same time, I want to extend that same invitation to every member of our congregation: when we are hurt or frustrated, let's resist the temptation to talk about one another before we have tried to talk *with* one another.

We can do better because we belong to one another

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

“Growing together” means that we will sometimes have difficult conversations.

It means we will practice forgiveness.

It means we will learn how to disagree without becoming enemies.

It means we will speak directly rather than allowing rumors and assumptions to speak for us.

And it means remembering that our words have power.

Before we speak about someone, let's ask:

**Is this true? Is it necessary?
Is it mine to say?
Have I spoken with the person directly?
Will this help bring healing or understanding?**

None of us will do this perfectly. But we can practice.

And perhaps that is part of what it means to be the church; not a community where conflict never happens, but a community that learns how to handle conflict with grace.

A resource for further reflection

I encourage you to read “*The Systemic Matthew 18 Problem in Lutheran Congregations*,” which explores some of these dynamics from a Lutheran perspective.

The article raises important questions about how concerns move through a congregation, how indirect communication can affect trust between pastors and congregational members, and what can happen when the Matthew 18 principle is not practiced directly.

You can read the full article here:

“*The Systemic Matthew 18 Problem in Lutheran Congregations*”

<https://steadfastlutherans.org/blog/2021/07/the-systemic-matthew-18-problem-in-lutheran-congregations/>

As we continue growing together as a congregation, may we strive to be people who **speak with one another, listen to one another, and extend God's grace to one another.**

Because ultimately, this isn't about protecting a pastor, a council, or any particular group.

**IT IS ABOUT PROTECTING OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER AND THE UNITY
CHRIST CALLS US TO SHARE.**

In partnership,

P. Manuel Gordon

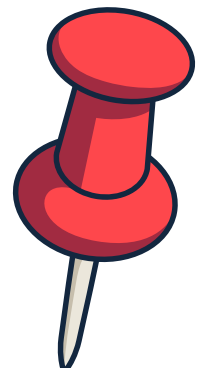
Share Your Stories with The Clarion!

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**





gather magazine
Bible study

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 2: Choosing loyalty, finding love

Scripture: Ruth 1:1–22; 2:8–12; 4:13–17

Ruth, a Moabite widow, chooses to remain with her mother-in-law Naomi and step into an unknown future. Her bold faith is revealed in loyalty, courage, and openness to God’s provision. In Ruth’s story, we see how God weaves love, community, and promise through even the most uncertain paths. This session invites participants to reflect on the risks of faith, the gift of relationships, and the ways God works through everyday loyalty to bring forth extraordinary love.



Patience Gather Bible Study
Monday, October 12. 12:30 p.m.
ALL are welcome to attend.

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].
Theme: "Rooted in Grace, Reaching in Love"
Scripture: Ephesians 3:17-19; Colossians 2: 6-7
- **Love Gifts:** Children's Books for PK-6th Grade.
Also men's socks in grey or dark colors. See **Harriet Morris** for more information.

"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.



CLC DAY OF SERVICE - **WORK DAY**



**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 10 •
8:00 A.M.– 12:00 P.M.**



LET'S COME TOGETHER AS A CONGREGATION FOR A MORNING OF
SERVICE, FELLOWSHIP, AND CARING FOR OUR CHURCH HOME!

We'll be sprucing up the church property, including the parsonage, with projects and tasks for all ages and abilities.

 Wear your CLC blue shirt! If you don't have one, any blue shirt will do.

 Prefer something less strenuous? There will be plenty to do indoors, including dusting, cleaning, organizing, filing, and more.

 Ready to get to work? Bring your work gloves and gardening tools to help with outdoor projects.

 Not able to do physical work? Come anyway! Your presence, encouragement, fellowship, and moral support are just as valuable.

Our church is a gift from God and a place where our congregation gathers, worships, serves, and grows together. Caring for this space is one way we show our gratitude and live out our calling to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

Come lend a hand, share some fellowship, and help make our church home shine.
We hope to see you there!

Sign Up

in the Narthex so we can get an approximate headcount for refreshments.

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.



*Roll the Dice -
Bunco Is Calling!*

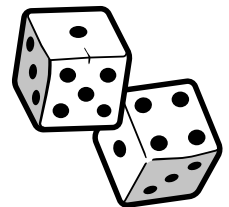
When: **Friday, Oct. 9, 2026**

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.

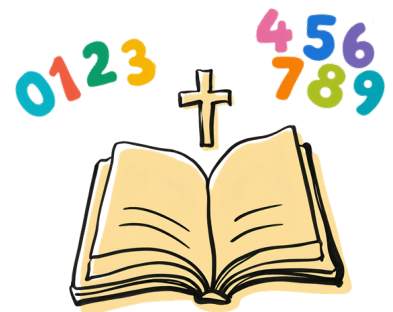
**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**



A dose of humor...

*What is a
mathematician's
favorite book of the
Bible?*

NUMBERS.



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.

HYMN OF THE MONTH: A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

LIVING LUTHERAN,
SEPTEMBER 2026.
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PERMISSION. © ELCA.



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

This is one of the most frequently sung, translated and written-about hymns of all time. It appears in nearly all hymnals.



Before 1900, over 80 translations were made in 53 languages.

It is still unknown exactly when Martin Luther wrote this hymn, but it was likely in the late 1520s.



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

From the 19th century onward, it has been regarded as a battle cry, but the title on the original broadsheet is "A Hymn of Comfort." Luther based the hymn on Psalm 46.



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

EIN FESTE BURG is the accompanying tune. The original rhythmic forms were gradually lost after the Reformation but were rediscovered in the 19th century and have now found their way into other traditions.

Luther's intent of comfort can be felt through the dancing of the rounded bar form.

"Bar form" references the music alone—the tune did not come from a tavern.



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

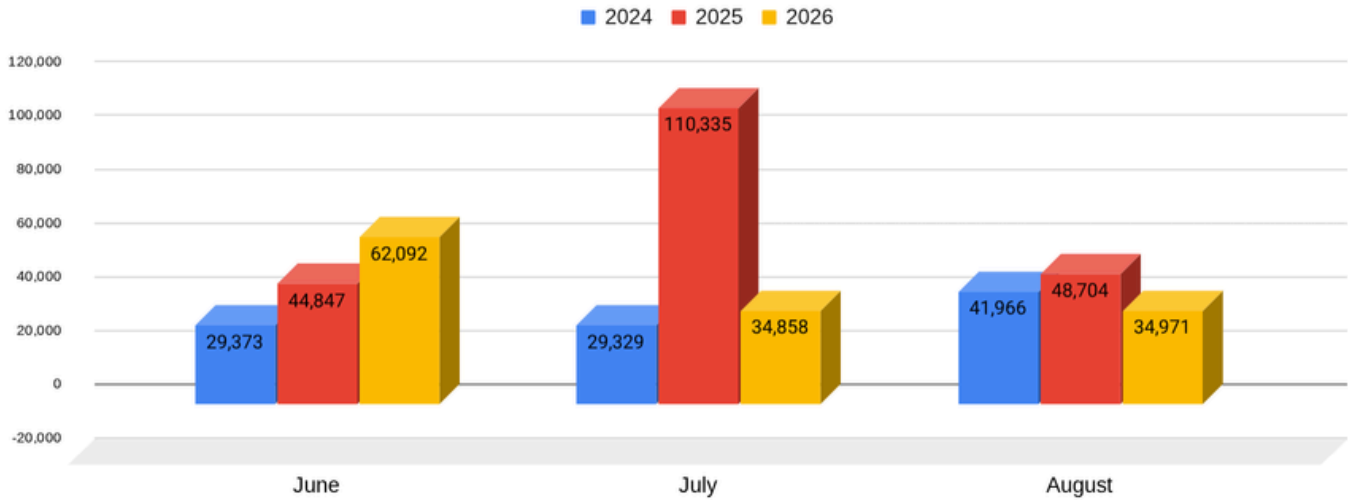
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Church Business

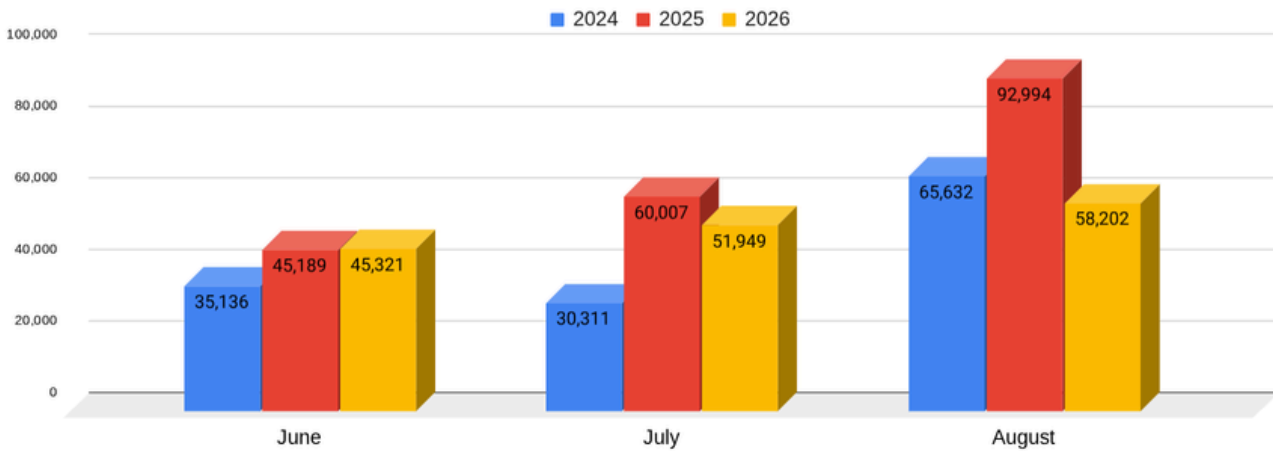
June, July, August Comparison of years 2024, 2025, 2026

Total Income



Total Expenses

2026 expense figures restated to include loan principal payments



BEYOND THE PEWS

Living the Word wherever we go.



✨ One church expressed in two languages ✨

We recently celebrated our bilingual service, bringing together our whole congregation.

We were especially blessed to welcome **Pastor Maria Santacruz**, *Associate to the Bishop*, who shared the message and helped make this special service even more meaningful.



Following worship, our congregation gathered around the table for a wonderful lunch, a time to share food, conversation, laughter, and fellowship.

Together, we celebrate the richness of our cultures and languages and the unity we share through God's grace.



GRACIAS A TODOS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS CELEBRATION POSSIBLE!

Hands and Hearts at Work

SHINING LIGHT ON THOSE WHO SERVE



📖 ✨ A Gift of Art and Faith

We are deeply grateful to **Linda Arment**, Lorri's sister, for sharing her incredible talent and generosity with our congregation through *two beautifully handwoven altar cloths for our Sanctuary and Small Chapel altars.*

The Small Chapel altar cloth is woven from wool and features a delicate silk embellishment in a pattern called "**Mexican Leaf**."

The Large Sanctuary altar cloth is woven from **Tencel** and features a beautiful **gold embellishment in the "Star of Bethlehem" pattern**. The embroidery is made with DMC Diamanté embroidery floss.

These beautiful pieces are more than works of art; they are gifts that will become part of the worship and life of our congregation for years to come.

We are especially thankful that Linda also provided detailed care instructions to help us preserve and enjoy these pieces for generations.



Thank you, Linda, for sharing your creativity, craftsmanship, and generous heart with Clairemont Lutheran Church. We are truly blessed by your gift!

Large Sanctuary altar cloth with gold embellishment — the pattern is called "Star of Bethlehem." The cloth is Tencel, the embellishment is DMC diamante embroidery floss

Tencel yarn is made from wood fibers: eucalyptus, beech, birch, and spruce.

To clean: hand wash or use a gentle machine cycle with cold water (no higher than 86° F) and a low spin speed (maximum 400 RPM). Use a mild, gentle liquid detergent (such as Ecover or Dreft silk and wool --do not use Woolite), never add fabric softener, chlorine bleach, or oxygen bleach. The fabric may feel stiff while wet, but will soften once dry.

To dry: Lay flat to dry. Machine tumble drying can shrink and weaken the fibers. Do not hang to dry, the altar cloth will stretch out of shape.

Avoid ironing: If it is absolutely required, dampen the cloth, use the wool heat setting for the iron, and use a press cloth. Avoid pressing the gold embellishment.

Stain treatment: Rinse area immediately with cold water, dab stain with mild detergent on a damp cloth, rinse immediately, do not scrub or scrunch up the fabric.

Small Chapel altar cloth with white embellishment — the pattern is called "Mexican Leaf."

The cloth is wool, the embellishment is silk.

To clean: hand wash or use a gentle machine cycle with cold water (no higher than 86° F) and a low spin speed (maximum 400 RPM). Use a mild, gentle liquid detergent (do not use Woolite* — use Ecover or Dreft silk & wool), never add fabric softener, chlorine bleach, or oxygen bleach.

To dry: Lay flat to dry. Machine tumble drying can shrink and weaken the fibers. Do not hang to dry, the altar cloth will stretch out of shape.

Avoid ironing: If it is absolutely required, dampen the cloth, use the wool heat setting for the iron, and use a press cloth.

Stain treatment for wool: Rinse the area immediately with cold water, dab the stain with a mixture of rubbing alcohol and water (1 part rubbing alcohol to 3 parts water) on a damp cloth, do not scrub or scrunch up the fabric, rinse the mixture immediately, do not get alcohol mixture on gold threads.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8am Sandwich Ministry 10am Morning Star 1pm A	2 8-12pm Food Dist. 1pm AA 6pm AI Anon	3 7am SA Group
4 9:30am Sunday Service 11am Servicio en español 1pm The Messengers 1:30pm Rise & Shine Choir	5 1pm & 8 pm AA 5:30pm Glee Choir 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30Esperanza Youth Choir 7:30-9pm Sanctuary Choir	6 1pm & 8pm AA 6:30 Cub Scouts FH 6:30 Campanile Ringers 7pm AI Anon	7 10am Piece & Sew 12:30pm SouthernCare 5pm 6-8:30pm EstudioBiblico	8 8am Sandwich Ministry 1pm AA 5:30pm Youth Group	9 8-12pm Food Dist. 1pm AA 1pm Bunko FH 6pm AI Anon	10 7am SA Group 8-12pm CLC Clean Up Day, Lunch following 1-3pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
11 9:30 m Sunday Service 11am Servicio en español 1pm The Messengers 1:30pm Rise & Shine Choir	12 1pm & 8 pm AA 5:30pm Glee Choir 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30Esperanza Youth Choir 7:30-9pm Sanctuary Choir	13 1pm & 8pm AA 4:30pm Evangelism Team 6:30 Cub Scouts FH 6:30 Campanile Ringers 7pm AI Anon	14 12:30pm Southern Care 5pm 6-8:30pm Estudio Biblico	15 8am Sandwich Ministry 1pm AA	16 8-12pm Food Dist. 1pm AA 6pm AI Anon	17 7am SA Group 10-12pm Bible Giveaway
18 9:30 m Sunday Service 11am Servicio en español 1pm The Messengers 1:30pm Rise & Shine Choir	19 1pm & 8 pm AA 5:30pm Glee Choir 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30Esperanza Youth Choir 7:30-9pm Sanctuary Choir	20 1pm & 8pm AA 6:30 Cub Scouts FH 6:30 Campanile Ringers 7pm AI Anon	21 12:30pm Southern Care 5pm 6-8:30pm Estudio Biblico	22 8am Sandwich Ministry 1pm AA 5:30pm Youth Group	23 8-12pm Food Dist. 1pm AA 6pm AI Anon	24 7am SA Group
25 9:30 m Sunday Service 11am Servicio en español 1pm The Messengers 1:30pm Rise & Shine Choir	26 1pm & 8 pm AA 5:30pm Glee Choir 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30Esperanza Youth Choir 7:30-9pm Sanctuary Choir	27 1pm & 8pm AA 6:30 Cub Scouts FH 6:30 Campanile Ringers 7pm AI Anon	28 12:30pm Southern Care 5pm 6-8:30pm Estudio Biblico	29 8am Sandwich Ministry 1pm AA	30 8-12pm Food Dist. 1pm AA 6pm AI Anon	31 7am SA Group Happy Halloween

CLC Volunteer Schedule - October 2026

Lay Readers

- 10/4 Arlene Riordan & Lili Muñoz
 10/11 Lorri Carlsen
 10/18 Rob Constantine & Susan Gjerset
 10/25 Karen Creusere



Communion Assistants

- 10/4 Pam Allen, Gary Lange, Sandra Logan, Curtis Cline
 10/11 Nancy & Sarah Groesbeck, Pam Allen
 10/18 Holly Boyle, The Purba's, Sandra Logan
 10/25 Bonita Martinez, Gary & Aida Jaus

Welcome Team

- 10/4 Sandra Logan, Thomas Knepple, Gary Lange, The Purba's
 10/11 Kathy Reed, Emilie Lauchmen, Gary Lange
 10/18 Gabriel & Teresita Muñoz, Pam Allen
 10/25 Sandra Logan, Curtis Cline



- 10/4
 10/11 Deborah Kegel
 10/18
 10/25 Gary & Aida Jaus

Media Team

- 10/4 Lewis John TenHulzen, Annamarya Martinez, Mitchell Little
 10/11 Lewis John TenHulzen, Annamarya Martinez, Mitchell Little
 10/18 Lewis John TenHulzen, Annamarya Martinez, Mitchell Little
 10/25 Lewis John TenHulzen, Annamarya Martinez, Mitchell Little

- | | |
|----------------------|-------|
| 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 |



Peggy Ritchie
 and
 Holly Boyle