



New Creation News

Come and See

Worship in Action



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. September 13, 2015

Lutheran churches all over the country will be participating!

We'll have a shorter-than-usual worship, then get to work assembling care packages for the local homeless. We're looking for donations of lunch fixings, travel-size personal care items (soap, toothpaste, etc.), and new tube socks. For more information, talk to Nicole Smith nicolemcneilsmith@gmail.com. Please plan to attend on this important day and lend your hands.

Worship in the Pews

Services in October will be focusing on being welcoming to all
(at church and in our daily lives) –

How Do We Love Unconditionally? Come and See.

November is a season of Gratitude and continual Thanksgiving.

Advent begins November 29th, as we enter our journey toward Christmas!

Worship during the Week – learning and fellowship

Mid-Week Supper Studies – return in October. Details coming soon!

Women's Inspirational Fellowship –

Wednesdays at the church at 11:30 am, optional brown bag lunch.

Led by Rosy McCloskey. Info: 408/242-3673 or rosymc@gmail.com

Men's Bible Study –

Alternating Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.

Held in homes and occasional other venues. Led by Jere Bernardoni.

Info: Rick Voss 408/225-7127 or papa_rick@comcast.net

What's Going on and What's Coming Up?

The Stuff We Do.

Next Week

College Info Meeting, 7:30 pm. Discussion of the college process for all high school families. State schools vs. private vs. JC. Applications, financial aid, etc. The goal is to share the information that we have all gathered in the process of preparing our kids to go to college.

Date not firm; talk to Pr. Cristina if you're interested.

Looking ahead – mark your calendars!

Sunday 10/25/15 –

The New Life Band from Tanzania

returns to New Creation for a special afternoon concert. We'll have a potluck meal to help celebrate. We are looking for folks to help house the band for a night. Info, talk to Pastor Cristina.

[pastor](#)

@newcreationchurch-sj.org

November 2015 –

Food Drive Collection!

Box packing day is Sunday 11/22. Lists of needed items will be provided as the event gets closer, but if you'd like to start shopping, we will need most non-perishable foods and hygiene items.

Ongoing. Usually, unless it's different –

Sunday Worship –

10 am, every week! At church.

Women's Inspirational

Fellowship & Bible Study –

Wednesdays 11:30 am,
at church

Men's Bible Study –

Alternating Wednesdays
7:30 pm, at homes

***Daily Bread Practice**

(worship band/singers) –
Thursdays 5:30 pm,
at church

***Quilting Group –**

Fridays 11 am, at church

***Recycling Days –**

1st & 2nd Sundays of the
month, at church

Charity Poker Group –

2nd Friday of the month,
6:30 pm, at homes

Church Work Days –

3rd Saturday of the month,
8 am – noon, at church

***Books-n-Brew (book group) –**

4th Friday of the month, 7 pm,
at homes

Council Meetings –

3rd Sunday of the month,
following service, at church

***What's this all about? For more info, see page 3...**



Fellowship Spotlight

Shining a light on a few of the things we have going on. . .

What is Books-n-Brew?

This is our book discussion group (not a club – no dues or application for membership ☺). We generally get together on the 4th Friday of the month, at rotating homes. Good food, good drink, relevant discussion, good-natured argument, and a lot of fun. Info will usually be in the weekly church bulletin about current books/dates/venues, but you can always ask Marilyn Feldhaus dpgross@jps.net

What does the Quilting Group do?

Besides making lovely quilts that go to Lutheran World Relief or become special personal gifts, the Quilting Group also takes care of keeping our church looking especially nice with seasonal paraments and other décor. They meet on Fridays at 11 am, brown bag lunch optional.
info: Joan Ronco – 408/776-3624

Recycling Days –

What's up with that?

We collect CRV (Calif. Redemption Value) containers and take them to the recycling center to raise money for special programs. Most of this income is earmarked for youth programming. The kids are terrific about helping to sort the containers, but it is helpful if you can bring things in separate bags – glass, plastic, and aluminum. Nearly all beverage containers are CRV – except wine, milk, and large juice bottles.

Daily Bread? Is that a restaurant?

Daily Bread is the worship band at New Creation! We rehearse most Thursdays at 5:30 pm, and every Sunday morning at 9:15. For information on auditioning or how you can get involved (regularly or occasionally), talk to Glenda Voss 408/391-8008 or glenda.voss@newcreationchurch-sj.org



Am I needed at New Creation?

There is always room for you in ANY area you find interesting, AND we currently have a particular need in the following areas.

Hospitality This team ensures that everyone who walks in our door is greeted with a smiling face and is made to feel comfortable.

Contact: Jere Bernardoni
jere-nclc@comcast.net

Photographer(s)

Who can be our house photographer? Pictures of various events, and even just during worship services can really make a difference on our website and Facebook pages. Contact: Jay Everson
jeverson@NewCreationChurch-sj.org

Work Days/Property

The Property Team is small-but-mighty. .. or is it mighty-but-small? A handful of dedicated people take care of the minor repairs and yard care around here, but they could really use some help. Work days are usually the 3rd Saturday of the month, 8 am – noon. Even just an hour or two will help. Or talk to Matt Lawler about how you can pitch in at other times of the month.

MLawler@prodigy.net

Sunday School We have a terrific team of dedicated Sunday school teachers, but their numbers have dwindled a bit, as people move out of town or on to other responsibilities (e.g., Pastor Cristina!) Please consider giving the children and youth of New Creation just an hour of your time occasionally. It's not hard, and the kids are wonderful. Help, supplies, and training are available. Talk to Pr. Cristina for info.

Pastor@NewCreationChurch-sj.org

Altar Guild Help is most needed in setting up communion items and putting things away afterwards. Contact: Joan Ronco 408/776-3624 or
aerrace@gmail.com

Celebrations Coordinator This person ensures that a sign-up sheet goes around for potlucks and that people are available for set-up and clean-up. This person is not expected to DO everything, but rather determine needs and just be sure the bases are covered!

Contact:

Becky Everson becky@NewCreationChurch-sj.org

Pastor's Message



I flew up to Seattle for a fun, relaxing trip in the great Northwest with my daughter. Upon arrival, we head to the rental car agency to pick up our car, this in itself should have been a pretty

simple task. What one must always remember is that summers in Seattle, equal large quantities of travelers, from all over the world, and English is not their first language. Americans tend to not really be aware that all people do not understand English.

So let me share, getting out of the rental lot was, um, complicated. The car ahead of me was denied access because they had chosen the wrong car class. I can imagine this was rather easy to do "Go pick out a car in that section, keys are in it." Was how we were greeted by an employee. I'm sure they had no idea what they were told, but if you looked around, you would have seen everyone else getting into cars and driving away. So they did. Well this creates a bit of a hang up at the exit, driving in an unknown place is complicated, not understanding the language is complicated, and the lady yelling at you to back up, is scary. This was the start of my vacation.

I wonder if we are capable of imagining what it is like to navigate our world realizing that we are all uniquely different. We have some preconceived notion that everyone should fit into the lens of the world we have

created, albeit as misshapen as that lens might be. We tend to put on that lens and then begin to judge the world around us based on this lens. I have to admit that I was completely judgy. My lens was so small and misshapen, I was completely annoyed. How in the world did you end up in the wrong car? Just back up for goodness sake and get out of my way. Oh, thank goodness I won't be that difficult for this attendant. Yep, super judgy. It's just what happens, we just keep looking through the smallest lens and remind ourselves of how perfect we are in our mirror.

But that is not what God calls us to do. God calls us to look at the world with a wide open lens. To see others as God does. God sees us as perfect. That is not to say we are "perfect" in all accounts, but we are created in God's image. We are perfect in size and shape; perfect when we live in that million dollar home or the cardboard box under the freeway. God loves us just as we are, not in hopes that we can be something more, just in being us, Gods own creation, made in God's image.

So if you are like me and have a small, somewhat misshapen lens that you are looking at the world through, I encourage you to throw out that old lens, and try using God's lens. When you love others just as God does, life gets simpler, you breathe more freely, and you find yourself enjoying life more.

Peace, Pastor Cristina

A Message from Our National Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton

This dates back to March, but it's worth a look. . .



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

“For he (Christ) is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.”

- Ephesians 2:14

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We need to talk. Ferguson, Missouri; Norman, Oklahoma; Madison, Wisconsin; Staten Island, New York; and Charlottesville, Virginia: recent events in these and other places prove we are not living in a postracial society. I know it's difficult to talk about race because too many Americans do not want to believe racism still exists in our country. Yet, as always, Christ promises to be alongside us, even in the most difficult of times, working for our reconciliation. Because of God's promise, we can and must have a deep, honest and even painful conversation about racism.

This month our country commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March and its significance in the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Lutherans were in Selma to join more than 70,000 people to remember and honor the courage of the veterans of the civil rights movement. Selma symbolized the very best of the human spirit to work cooperatively for change at any cost. Conversely, it also demonstrated the lowest levels of hatred, violence and resistance to change.

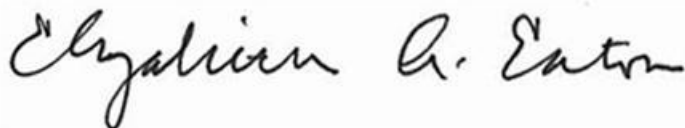
Overt forms of racism are no longer legally sanctioned, but the legacy of racism, sadly, endures. Institutional policies and practices still privilege some while limiting access and opportunities to others. Today, the Voting Rights Act has been weakened by the removal of federal oversight of local voting laws and millions of poor and people of color fill the cells of our criminal justice system.

We have said, “Racism – a mix of power, privilege, and prejudice – is sin, a violation of God’s intention for humanity.” (*Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture*, 1993)
Ongoing racial justice conversations are occurring and work is happening. But in cases where these are not, we shouldn’t wait until another racial event is widely reported before we talk. Here are a number of ways:

- Listen to and learn from the experiences of people of color in your communities.
- Contact the Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries and the Racial Justice Ministries at the churchwide organization. Connect with your synod anti-racism team.
- Be in conversation with your synod bishop and staff. Many of our synods are equipped to help connect you with local resources on anti-racism education and racial justice ministries.
- Learn more about our ongoing racial justice work. This church has helpful guidance in our criminal justice social statement and in the race, ethnicity, and culture social statement.
- Advocate for local, state and federal legislation and regulations that guarantee to all citizens the right to vote. Join the ELCA e-Advocacy Network at www.elca.org/advocacy.

As a church called to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we must continue to listen deeply, to speak out about racial equity and inclusion, to respect and uplift the dignity and humanity of every person and to join with others in organizing for change. In baptism we have become part of the body of Christ and in Christ there is no barrier between us. I pray that our Lord will use us and this moment to make this baptismal promise a reality in our lives and in this church.

God’s blessings,



Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop

PS – • get involved with New Creation’s Social Justice Group!
Talk to Pr. Cristina for more info. – Ed.

The Little Tree Playschool



New Creation's preschool is a safe and nurturing preschool with an exciting learning program for ages 2 to entering kindergarten. Flexible scheduling available.

See our website and talk to Director Rachele Wright for more information.

www.littletreeplayschool.org

littletree@newcreationchurch-sj.org

New Creation Lutheran Church

We are a faith community that believes

God loves all creation unconditionally.

We seek to live in that love, welcoming all.

New Creation is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation



We are all children of God and as such are all welcome in God's house. New Creation Church, committed to offering reconciling hope and healing, opens our doors and our hearts to all people, regardless of cultural background, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic or family status, gender, or age. This welcome includes persons who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered, their partners, and families.

www.newcreationchurch-sj.org 408/972-9200

7275 Santa Teresa Blvd. – San Jose, CA 95139

www.facebook.com/NewCreationLutheranChurch

www.elca.org – www.reconcilingworks.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.