



Pastor Pam's Pennings

**May 2018
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...as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted to us through the prayers of many.

2 Corinthians 1:11

I've been thinking a lot about prayer lately. This month we celebrate Pentecost, that amazing moment, when the Christian church was birthed through the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the prayerful readiness of the disciples. Prayer comes with a lot of questions for most of us.

Why do we bother to pray? What happens when we pray? Is prayer effective? If God already knows what we need...?

I know when I pray it's simply to talk to God, my best friend. God knows my deepest needs and my most sincere desires and when I pray, we chat about everything. I find that when I pray, my very strong will is tempered and put more in line with God's will for my life.

I **KNOW** prayer is effective and that you, dear sisters and brothers, are amazing pray-ers! Some incredible things have happened because you pray. Ross, Rick Panos' brother, has told Rick how he has felt the prayers of

this congregation through his recent medical crisis. It's amazing how an infection that almost killed him is now completely gone and soon he will have a replacement ankle.

Pat, our daughter Aubrey's father-in-law, is home recovering from an aggressive and invasive infection in his feet that was stopped earlier than was expected because of our prayers.

God **always** answers our prayers. The answers may come in four ways: Yes! No! Wait! Yes, and here's more! We always want the first and last answers, and **I** always balk at the middle two! Even after all of this time as a Christian person of prayer, I still often want God to be a pocket-genie, who magically appears and **POOF** – answers my prayers in an instant. Now, I know that this is **NOT** a good idea – because my prayers can so often be for all the wrong reasons and I am grateful that God is God and I am not!

I invite you to pray this month with the hope and expectation that God will align our willful nature to God's eternal plan for us, for our loved ones, and for the universe.

+Blessings+
Pastor Pam



Greetings!

He is Risen! Alleluia! I hope you all enjoyed our Lenten and Holy Week services this year. Thank you everyone for your time, talents, and treasures. It was truly a very special and moving season.

Youth Music News!!!! Kaleidoscope meets on Tuesdays 4:30-5:30. Remember, this is for children ages K-5th grade. We will sing, dance, play instruments, play games/activities, do drama, and make crafts. We have lots of fun so come join us! We will continue until mid-June and then take a break until after VBS.

Youth Band meets on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30. The band is working on a set list so they can put on a concert later on in the Spring or Summer. The band will continue until after VBS when we will take August off.

Musicmakers meet on Tuesday mornings from 11:00-11:30. We are now focusing on their music rudiments through singing, rhythm instruments, and bells. It was so wonderful to hear them lead the other preschool children in church last month during Pre-School Sunday.

The Music Teams are currently planning special music through mid-June. After that, the praise team will lead worship through the summer months...along with special guests.

Worship Report: We had a string break on the piano. This is a bigger deal than it sounds for we must have a custom made replacement and monthly tunings for 6 months. I've decided to look into long term/worst case scenarios for the following items: the organ, the piano, the hand bells, band equipment, and audio/AV system. I will compile a report for the fall when the annual budget is being prepared (although I suspect most of these items will fall under the 10-year plan). I will keep you all posted.

Thanks!

**Your humble Director,
Brian Madigan**

High School and Young Adult Ministry

On May 20, we celebrate **Pentecost** when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, allowing them to speak in different languages in order to spread the news about Jesus' teachings and resurrection. It is a time for us to evaluate and ponder how the Holy Spirit moves within us as individuals and a congregation. How is the Holy Spirit working in your life?



This Photo by Unknown

THANK YOU! Pastor Pam posted a beautiful meme that church is not a place you go to but a family in which you belong. Everyone's generosity in time, talent and monetary donation for the Easter Pancake breakfast was inspirational. Thank you to everyone who took the time to decorate the social hall, flip pancakes, fry sausage, ensure there was enough juice and coffee and eat and enjoy each other's company on a day filled with beautiful celebrations of life! The youth were able to raise close to \$550 which put us over our goal of \$3,000 for the Houston trip! Any fundraising above \$3,000 will stay within the youth fund and provide us with money to serve the community and build upon for the next ELCA Youth Gathering or mission trip!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018! Mark your calendars!! Our Vacation Bible School will be the week of July 23 – 27, 2018! This year's theme will be **"We are on God's Team"** and focus on sports/service for Christ! We are still looking for volunteers to help with this important ministry. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, May 16th at 6:00pm**. Feel free to let me know beforehand if you are interested and available to help!
Registration packets can be found in the narthex!

GOT THRIVENT? Did you know that depending on your Thrivent account, you get up to two \$250 gift cards to use for a cause? If you haven't used these, Vacation Bible School would love them to help off-set the cost of supplies! Kim is the Thrivent guru – if you have any questions, we can help!



This Photo by

TAMALES! The youth will tentatively be selling homemade tamales at the congregational meeting on Sunday, May 6! Be on the lookout for more information on how to purchase these delicious treats!

Long Beach Pride! Calling all volunteers! SoCal Lutherans will be volunteering at a table at the Long Beach Pride Festival, May 19-20! To volunteer, sign-up at

<http://www.socallutherans.com/pride-info>. If you have any challenges signing up or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me (Sarah)!



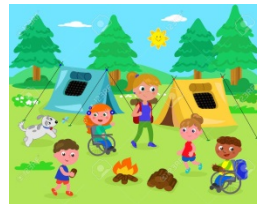


Preschool News

#Kindermusik
Moves Me

In April we celebrated **Week of the Young Child**. We had fun activities each day to celebrate children and all the wonders they bring to us. For **Music Monday** we had Kindermusik come in and do a special music class for each room.

For **Tasty Tuesday** we explored all kinds of food sensory activities on the yard. For **Work Together Wednesday** we had a tent city on the playground and other group projects for them to build.



For **Artsy Thursday** we had lots of fun with spray painting, pom pom painting, and more.



For **Family Friday** we Parent Appreciation afternoon.



had a lovely Tea in the

We ended the week by having a special **Preschool Sunday** on April 22. The children sang at the service and then the classrooms were open after worship to look around and see all the children do at CLP.



Teacher
Appreciation
Week

The first week of May we will have **Teacher Appreciation Week**. On May 11th we will celebrate the blessing of mothers with **Moms and Muffins** in the courtyard at drop off time.

The end of May, we will have **Elks Vision Screening** come in to test the children's eyes.

Blessings for a beautiful month!
Lisa Clinton

Muffins
with Mom

New Fellowship Opportunity for Seniors The plan is for this regular fellowship time to be appropriate for both active seniors and those with mobility concerns. It will be a time to enjoy a potluck meal, conversations with each other, Pastor Pam and maybe interesting visitors, play cards or other types of games, etc. **Make sure to be at the first meeting on Thursday, May 10 at 12:30pm in the conference room**, so you can give your input on what this activity will look like, how often it is held, etc. **Harriette will provide a ham and rolls; everyone else who attends is asked to bring a salad or dessert.** Please contact Harriette Probst at 562 430-9448; leave a message and say that you are from Christ Lutheran.

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Adult Bible Study is now meeting on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:15pm in the home of Phil and Jeanne Peterson. The current study is on *Heaven*. Everyone is invited and welcome to join in. The May meetings are on the 9th and the 23rd. Please contact Phil or Jeanne for more information, 562 429-3093.

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Men's Bible Study ... is taking a hiatus for a time. We thank those of you who contributed to this men's ministry by attending and

preparing the monthly studies. You are invited and encouraged to attend the *Bible 101* studies that meet once a month, on the 4th Tuesday at 7:15pm.

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Bible 101 is held the 4th Tuesday of each month. Pastor Pam will join you in the Conference Room at 7:15pm. Everyone is welcome to attend; *no previous experience necessary*. We will meet on **Tuesday, May 22, 2018.**

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Pray for Peace in the Middle East

Join Pastor Pam in the Sanctuary on the **24th of each month at 7pm** to pray for peace in this fragile and volatile area of the world. Raising our voices together in hope for respect and resolution is one way that we can support our brothers and sisters in this region.



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The Sons of Norway meet in CLC's Social Hall at noon on the second Saturday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend their meetings to see what this cultural group is all about. Our next meeting is **May 12th at 12:00pm.**



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Grief Group

This group meets on the first Sunday of every month to be a support for all types of loss. **This is not a closed group, so please attend as you can and invite others should they have the need. Please feel free to join us on Sunday, May 6th at 2pm.**



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Stephen Ministry Minute



“We are the Caregivers, Christ is the Curegiver”

We love this motto and it resonates louder than ever! Our Stephen Ministry is approaching the two year mark, actually two years ago this month; we started our first training class. We now have seven trained Stephen Ministers, who each meet regularly with a care receiver and attend bimonthly supervision and continuing education sessions.

They are a dedicated and loving group of people, serving amongst you and experiencing their own personal and spiritual growth at the same time. We want to grow our ministry in order to serve even more persons in need.

I am pleased to announce that we will begin a new Stephen Minister Training Class in the fall, September the 7th & 8th, which will be an on -campus retreat. After that, the sessions will be a combination of Tues evenings and Saturdays.

Even though this is several months away, please prayerfully consider joining us in this vital and caring ministry. A few of our current Stephen Ministers will be speaking about their experiences over the next few months, so that you might get a better sense of the impact on their lives and those of their care receivers. It is not too early to ask questions of a Stephen Leader or Stephen Minister. We would love to talk with you!

Pastor Pam
Judy Haenn
Rick Panos
Annette Rodrigues
Ron Nelson

Chris Panos
Dave Challis
Ken Yliniemi
Tricia Latiolait
Valerie Weisel



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members at Home or in Care Centers: Justin Bartlow, Coleen Fenton, Ione Marchael and Pat Nell.

Those struggling with illness or other concerns: BJ Anthony, Carol Goller, Judy Haenn, Daniel Howard, Donna Johnson, the Joseph family, Dave Nell, Ron Nelson, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Lonnie Timney, Ed Trost and Cathy Westwood.

Family & Friends: Jeri Cooper Alacano, Alexis Blair, Lois Brown, Wynn Burkard, John Byron, Charlie Corm, Pat Cray, Vicki Fitzpatrick, Alberta Gray, Paul Hayes, Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoenig, Bill Horner, Helen Horner, Leslie Hoskins, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Doris Jung, Laurie Kelly, Linda Kramer, Katrina Lahr, Barbara Lindsay, Troann Loy, Steve Nelson, Don Norris, Sylvie Olson, Ian Ollie, Lisa Paioni, Ross Panos, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Alicia Saldana, Marlene Shafer, Bruce Short, Marian Smith, Jack Stolle, Anna Watt-Morse, Mark and Helen Weisel, Bill Weston, Terri Weston, Jenny and Steve West, Ken Yokoyama and Gary Zimmerman.

We pray for the ongoing work of:

Linda Gawthorne among the Kogi people of Colombia.

Those serving in our nation's military; especially Jason Arellano, Samuel Brown, Gene Chen, Rachel & Victor Colon, Ethan Cordle, Michael Cote, Aaron Crayton, William Eaton, Nicholas Flournoy, Gabriel Gallegos, Richard Gallegos, Chandler Hoover, John Lamberton, Brittany Graham, Davis McElwain, Morgan Llewellyn, Haley Fessenden, Johnny Luna, Shawn McRae, Emily Merritt, Steven Andrew Navarro, Michael Joseph Navarro, Jim Reeder, Sophie Schade, Douglas Steelhammer, Dominic Vancini, Jonah Westcott, Joshua Wauchope and Collin White.



Happy Anniversary

- 5/7 *Kristina and Rob Randig*
- 5/19 *Carol and Ed Goller*
- 5/21 *Renu and Marv Moon*



- 5/1 *Karol Lemerond*
- 5/2 *Robert McGee*
- 5/4 *Alex Alfonso*
- 5/5 *Tyler Cover*
- 5/6 *Jesse Knight*
- 5/8 *Katelyn Ramos*
- 5/9 *Carina Colvin*
- 5/10 *Jessica Stamer*
- 5/11 *Ron Nelson*
- 5/12 *Chris Hunter*
- 5/12 *Jennifer Kitano*
- 5/16 *Carol Price*
- 5/17 *Michael Tinsley*
- 5/18 *Rich Oelschlaeger*
- 5/21 *Olivia Petrbock*
- 5/23 *Elisabeth Willms Jenkins*
- 5/24 *Lauren Martin*
- 5/26 *Joaquin Alfonso*
- 5/27 *Ivan Brown*
- 5/28 *Max Johnson*
- 5/31 *Scott Moon*