



Pastor Pam's Pennings

**December 2018
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Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away... (O God, Our Help in Ages Past)

I am certain that time is moving faster and faster – that ever-rolling stream is picking up speed! As someone once explained to me, as we age the comparative amount of time one year takes becomes smaller and smaller in relation to the total years lived. As a child is WAS an eternity between Thanksgiving and Christmas because at age 4, 1 month was 1/48th of my life! Today? That same month is 1/730th (OK, plus some)!

So, as Thanksgiving season is upon us, I am writing about Christmas! Christmas! That wonderful time of year when we stop and remember the whole reason we gather as a community of faith. We remember that God chose to enter human existence as a baby so very long ago. Born in Bethlehem – so besieged and troubled (then as well as today) – a town that was the birthplace of King David.

We pause, peek into the feeding trough that held God in the flesh, and see love, pure love. We need this love today more than ever. Hate seems to rule the day and violence continues to capture the headlines. We live in fear and wonder when...how...if...this will ever end! I'm finding it hard to sleep, and keep thinking that there is no place we can go to be safe anymore – churches, and schools, supermarkets and bars, shopping malls and city streets have all been marred by violence this year. Where to go? What to do? How do we survive?

Join me as we gather around the manger and look into the tiny face of the Prince of Peace. Join me as we pray that this child, who became the Savior of the World, can use each of us to make our planet, our, country our community a better, safer, more secure place for ALL of God's people. Join us for worship in this Season of Advent and Christmas. Join your prayers with ours as we strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Remind us, O God, that in this season of hope, the Hope of the World is alive and moving within our lives. May God's miracle child become even more real to you in this holy season, even as time marches on.

+Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas+

Pastor Pam Challis



Greetings!

“For unto us a Child is born...”

—Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas, my friends. We have so much going on this month at CLLB. I am looking forward to our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 9th at 3:00. Please bring your family and friends for a wonderful afternoon of music and goodies. I am so appreciative of everyone in all our groups and ministries here at CL. With that said, I am always confident that the Christmas season, and well as any other venture throughout the year, will be memorable.

Youth Music News!!!!

Musicmakers are working on songs to sing at their annual Christmas Pageant on Friday, December 14th @3:30. If you do not work that day, come on over to church and watch these adorable kids.

Kaleidoscope I is on Tuesdays from 4:30-5:00. **Kaleidoscope I** is for those new to the group; **Kaleidoscope II** meets from 5:00-5:30. This is for the returning children from last year and/or those with prior music experience. Please notify me before coming so I can choose the best fit for your child. We will now be meeting upstairs in Room 8. I am very excited for we have 12 kids this year and growing. Yay!!!!

November was performance month. We spent most of the time learning how to watch the leader (director) and playing together in time. We also spent some time decorating our instruments we made last month. Anyone from church who wants to be on the Kaleidoscope email list (to receive news and newsletters with photos, videos, et al.), please let me know and I will include you.

Youth Band is on hold. I am advertising to start up again after the New Year. Ben and Steve have been working on a song with me to perform at the Christmas Concert.

The Music Teams are almost ready with the music for this season. I appreciate their hard work and dedication as we prepare for the season.

Worship Report: Nothing new to report other than considering helping out on Alter Guild and please check the flowers chart and consider filling in any empty weeks so we always have fresh flowers on Sundays.

Once again, thank you for your time, talents, and treasures...as well as your love and support.

**Your humble Director,
Brian Madigan**



High School and Young Adult Ministries

*“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”
John 5:11.*

Lights. Trees. Cookies. Family. Friends. Peace. *Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel.* It’s the most wonderful time of the year! Mary, did you know? Finally, a year of waiting is over as we enter into the Advent and Christmas season. This year for holidays has been so much fun – Grant totally “gets it” this year. It has been so refreshing to see the celebrations through his eyes and, yet, I wonder if I am doing enough to help him understand the true reason we celebrate Christmas. Christ is born! Our Savior has come! Happy birthday, Jesus! May your holidays be filled with love and joy!



- **Christmas Greens:** The youth are selling Christmas greens again! Sign-up sheets are in the narthex – if you would like to take a sheet (or two!) to friends, neighbors, co-workers, feel free! I have extras! Order forms and payments are due by end of worship on **Sunday, December 2**. Pick-up from the Social Hall will be on **Tuesday, December 11**. This year, we are offering a few different colors of poinsettias, as well as different variety of door charms!
- **Brownie/Cookie Mix:** We will be selling cookie and brownie mix each Sunday after worship for \$8/each or 2 for \$15!
- **Tamales:** Come join us on Saturday, December 15, at 9:30 a.m. as we learn how to make Christmas tamales! We will sell them after worship on Sunday, December 16.

All proceeds will go towards future service opportunities. As always, thank you so much for your continued support for our youth!



LOFT Dates

December 2 – wear your pjs to church and stay to decorate the tree! After decorating, we’ll enjoy a holiday movie and some yummy treats!



Preschool News

November seemed to fly by. On the 21st we celebrated Thanksgiving with a school wide performance and a finger food feast in the social hall. The tables looked beautiful with the centerpieces and placemats that the children made.

Our pajama day on **November 28th** was a lot of fun and very successful. We collected pajamas and books to donate to LSS and fire victims.

In December we will have a special family outing on **Dec 7th** with a Christmas lights tour of Naples on the Big Red Bus. We will start with cookies and cocoa with Santa and then board the open air double decker bus and listen to a live guitar player leading us in Christmas carols as we take in all of the beautiful lights. What a great way to get in the Christmas spirit!

Our annual Christmas program, "Who Is Coming to Our House" will be on Friday, **December 14th at 3:30pm in the sanctuary**. The sanctuary is always packed for this special program. All of the children participate. Room 4 & 5 will be our stable animals and Mary & Joseph, Room 3 will be angels, Room 2 will be little drummer boys & girls, Room 1 will be shepherd and sheep, and Room 6 will be the star and "wise babies".

We will be closed for winter break December 24 through January 1st. School will resume on January 2nd.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Lisa Clinton

OWLs in the Nest This regular fellowship time is an opportunity 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 next meeting on Thursday, December 13th, at 12:30pm in the social hall** everyone else who attends is asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. If you have any questions, 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 *the Book of Acts*. Everyone is invited and welcome to join in. **The December meetings are on the 12th and the 26th.** Please contact Phil or Jeanne for more information, 562 429-3093.

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Bible 101 meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:15pm. Everyone is invited to spend some time getting to know the Bible; bring your questions to try and stump Pastor Pam—betcha can't! **No previous experience required! Join us on January 22nd.**

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Men's Bible Study Meets the second Monday of each month at 7pm. Men of all ages

are encouraged to come to the conference room for a time of study and fellowship. Next meeting is Monday, December 10th at 7pm.

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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. The **December meeting is Saturday the 8th.**

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Prayer Shawl Ministry meets every 2nd and 4th Monday evening at 6:30pm on the church

campus. If you enjoy knitting and/or crocheting, please think about using your talent to create prayer shawls for those in our congregation and within our community.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

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

Family & Friends: Jessica A., Gladi Adams, Jeri Cooper Alacano, Marianela Atencio, Ralph Bender, Lois Brown, Wynn Burkard, John Byron, Clara Caldwell, David Corm, Steven Corm, Michelle C., Gail Delanty, Jim Edwards, Stephanie, Lorraine and Larah, Shawn Fechter, Cheri and Fernando de Gomez, Alberta Gray, Paul Hayes, Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoenig, Bill Horner, Leslie Hoskins, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Doris Jung, Mary Keenan, Katrina Lahr, Jane McInnis, Don Norris, Ian Ollie, Maria P., Joyce Pressler, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Alicia Saldana, Tracy Sanchez, Marian Smith, Anna Watt-Morse, Jenny & Steve West and Gary Zimmerman.

We pray for the ongoing work of

+ Linda Gawthorne among the Kogi people of Colombia.

+First responders who provide safety, security and care.

+ Those serving in our nation's military; especially Jason Arellano, Samuel Brown, Gene Chen, Rachel & Victor Colon, Michael Cote, Aaron Crayton, William Eaton, Damian Ellsworth, 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

12/30 Susan and Mike Clark



12/2 Katie Tinsley

12/3 Angel Trujillo

12/5 London Sharar

12/6 Morgan Mora

12/6 Shirley Pierce

12/8 Judy Haenn

12/10 William Clark

12/12 Susan Clark

12/13 Samantha Benoit

12/13 Daniel Peralta

12/13 Linda Zimmerman

12/14 Kara Ihrig

12/15 Kevin Barnett

12/15 Claudia Fitzpatrick

12/17 Robin Black

12/18 Renu Moon

12/19 Angie Nelson

12/20 Dylan Mora

12/23 Annette Rodrigues

12/26 Justin Bartlow

12/27 Pat Barnett

12/29 Aleah Latiff

12/31 Ruth Benner

