



## Pastor Pam's Pennings

May 2020  
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Psalm 46:5-11 reads:

*<sup>6</sup>The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. <sup>7</sup>The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. <sup>8</sup>Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. <sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. <sup>10</sup>“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.” <sup>11</sup>The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

I find much comfort from Psalm 46. It also challenges me! I particularly have a hard time with verse 10...*Be still...* The coronavirus has caused a lot more stillness than what we are all used to as we hunker down at home and try to flatten the infection curve in our country.

Easter's hope is that even in the darkest, most still times (think of Jesus dead in the grave), God's power-filled love changes everything! Jesus didn't stay dead; the promise of the resurrection was his as he rose that first Easter morning. That very same hope is ours as well! Easter season is upon us and as the world warms and the roses in our gardens bloom, we can remember the joy of Easter is ours – today, tomorrow, and forever. Death has lost its sting! *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge!*

As we continue to be apart from each other, remember that there are things we can do to “see” each other...

- Tune in to our Facebook livestream worship each Sunday morning at 9:30am.  
[www.facebook.com/christlutheran/](http://www.facebook.com/christlutheran/)
- Join other saints in our drive-through communion at 10:30-11:30am in the front of the sanctuary.
- Call someone on the phone, or FaceTime, Duo, Skype, Zoom, or a host of other face-to-face ways to connect.

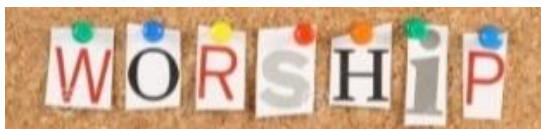
And know that I am praying for you! I long for us to be together physically in the church sometime soon. I hope you'll join me in praying that we can be together on May 31 @ 9:30am for Pentecost! Keep reading the Friday e-blast that comes to your email for updates. Also pay attention to the postings from our Governor and the Long Beach Mayor, for we follow their lead in making decisions that are best for us here.

After talking with Phyllis Wiederhoeft and Andy Trost, we are hoping to do a complete re-start of the Capital Campaign on Sunday, October 4 with our closing celebration to be Sunday, October 25 – Reformation Sunday.

*The Lord of hosts is with us!*

**Easter blessings!**

**Pastor Pam**



Hello my friends,

As I write this newsletter, it has been over a month since we all sat together in worship. Although you can still see me alongside Pastor each Sunday, we miss seeing you. I know this has been a difficult time for all of us; I only wish for the day when we are all back together again.

In the meanwhile, we will continue to try to improve our online worship experience. Since we have people all over the world watching us, Facebook Live seems to work better than YouTube. With this format, we also can stream with the highest quality of sound and video possible. We apologize for some snafus: picture sideways, sound too loud or too soft, internet drop-outs, et al. It is a work in progress and some things are out of our control.

Now that it is quite apparent we will be worshipping online for another month or two, we are continually working on improving the overall worship experience: lighting, sound, video, music, format, content, etc.

We are also in the process of passing out hymnals during drive-thru Communion. If you do not have a hymnal at home, there will be one on the table after you receive drive-through Communion. This way, I can continue to schedule hymns each week.

(UPDATE: *We are currently out of devotional booklets; however Pastor is working on a daily devotional series that will be sent to you all via email soon...if not directly, it may be in the weekly eblast*). Now, I bet you are wondering what to expect moving forward! Consider the following:

**For those of you new to the overall worship process:** Remember, on our church website homepage, click on the black “visitor info” button, and scroll down...on the right hand side, under “sign up for our newsletter,” are a list of all of our “recent posts” which includes our weekly bulletins. So, you can download a bulletin to use along with your home hymnal, and you are ready to worship. **Worship?** Well, back on our church website homepage, if you scroll down to “Pastor’s message” you will see in the message a link to our Facebook page to watch the service live. **Your internet was acting up and you missed the service?** Well, on our Facebook page, on the left hand side you will see a column of options: Home, About, Photos, et al...click on “Posts” and scroll down until you find the worship service you missed...or want to watch again (now you can see how many Sundays last month I wore the same shirt...lol).

One final note: you can bypass everything illustrated above by reading your **eblast** on Friday. This eblast: **What's happening this week @CLC** contains the link to our

Facebook page for worship; if you scroll down, it also contains a box that reads: **To download a copy of Sunday's worship, click this link...**this link is NOT another link to our streamed worship; it is a copy of our Sunday morning bulletin for you to follow along with us at home. If it does not open on your computer, go to your computer's "Downloads" folder to retrieve it. **No eblast! Before calling us, check your SPAM folder to see if it is there; if not,** send an email to the church office and we will see if your email address is correct. **What is an eblast?** Well, it is a short information page about our weekly church activities sent to your email inbox on Fridays.

What to expect each Sunday morning: Between **9:30a-10:00a- Worship Service**. Some music format items to prepare for are as follows: 1) The **Pre Service Music**—will mostly function as "signing on" music for those of you entering the live-stream; 2) The **Prelude**—will usually be special music done by Roger on Organ and/or myself and Pastor on Handbells, Piano, Guitar, etc. 3) The **Opening Hymn**—will usually be led by Roger on Organ so have your hymnals ready; 4) The **Post-Sermon Special Music**—will be led by me as a solo performance and/or special music singing (if you do not know the song, you can re-watch over again to learn for the future; otherwise, sing along at home); and 5) **Closing Song**—will either be a well-known song with the lyrics printed or out of the hymnal...so, have your hymnals ready! Then, from **10:30-11:30:Drive-thru Communion**. Please drive by with your masks on...we also have a table for your weekly offering, other items relating to the season, and hymnals for those who still need one. Finally, at **11:45: Preschool Chapel Service**. We will be live-streaming our short but cute chapel service for our beloved young ones...as well as everyone else who is young at heart.

I know it sounds a little complicated, but it is the most efficient way for us to function at the moment. As restrictions lessen, our options will increase. We may even explore putting the live video stream on the home page of our website for those who are wandering around the internet looking for a church home...or some temporary spiritual guidance. But for now, our focus is on you: our family and congregation, and your spiritual, physical, and emotional needs.

Thank you for all your wonderful kind words during this transitional process. We really appreciate it!

I'll see you (well, you'll at least see me) on Sunday.

*Brian Madigan*



## Preschool News

We typically would have celebrated Easter and Week Of the Young Child in the month of April. Everything looks so very different this year. The preschool has been closed since March 16th due to the Coronavirus. So this year, we are figuring out new ways to celebrate with people. The staff is working from home to support families by sending out daily emails with activity ideas around a weekly theme. They are sharing videos of themselves singing, reading and doing activities as well as hosting 2 zoom calls for each class every week. We have started a Facebook Group as a way for our CLP community to stay connected and see what each other are up to while we are apart. Parents and staff can all share pictures on this page.

We usually do a lot of special activities throughout the Week of the Young Child, so we didn't want to skip it altogether. We decided to do a drive through preschool parade on Friday, 4/13/20. The staff decorated their cars and parked spaced out around the parking lot and the parents could decorate their cars and drive through and wave and say hi. It was supposed to be from 11am-11:45am. We had such an amazing turn-out that the line of cars went down Stearns Street passed the freeway entrance and we ended up staying out there until 1pm to get through all the cars! We are so blessed to have such a warm and close family feel at CLP and we are all missing that very much right now. Several parents were emotional and in tears as they drove through. The parents also decided to take this opportunity to show their appreciation to the staff by giving us cards the kids had made, flowers from their garden, and some gift cards too. This turned out to be a huge success and was a great opportunity to get to see everyone in a safe way.

Although our Annual Dinner and Auction was postponed, we were able to hold the “50/50” raffle and the “Spin to Win” raffle for those people who had purchased tickets before the school’s closure. A family member of a preschool student won \$410 in the 50/50 pull and we were able to give away 12 of the raffle baskets! Stay tuned for what will happen with the silent auction baskets.

As of now, the preschool is planning to stay closed through May 31st with a tentative return date of June 1st and the staff will continue to work from home.

Praying you all stay healthy and find moments of peace and joy!  
Lisa Clinton

**OWLs in the Nest** Will not meet for the next couple of months. Please watch this newsletter or the Friday eBlast for return dates. This regular fellowship time



is an opportunity to enjoy a potluck meal and conversation. Each person who attends is asked to bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. For example, a couple would provide 2 dishes. 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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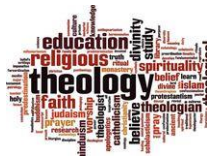


**Adult Bible Study** usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at

7:15pm in the home of Phil and Jeanne Peterson. Everyone is invited and welcome to join. Please contact Phil or Jeanne for more information, 562 429-3093. **Contact Jeanne to find out when this group will resume meeting.**

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**Bible 101-Basic Theology** will not meet for the next couple of months.



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### Men's Bible Study

Will not meet for the next couple of months. Please watch this newsletter or the Friday eBlast for return dates. **We usually meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:15 in the evening. Men of all ages are welcome when meetings resume.**

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### Pray for Peace in the Middle East Join Pastor Pam in

prayer from your home 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 usually meet in CLC's Social Hall at



noon on the second Saturday of each month. **Please contact Jeanne Peterson for information on plans for future meetings.**

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will not meet for the next couple of

months. Please continue to knit or crochet at home.

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Members at Home or in Care Centers:** Justin Bartlow, Judy Haenn, Ione Marchael and Carol Price.

**Those struggling with illness or other concerns:** Amy Altair, Ruth Barnes, Daniel Howard, the Joseph family, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Cathy Westwood, Gary and Linda Zimmerman.

**Family & Friends:** Gladi Adams, Jeri Cooper Alacano, Marilyn Armstrong, Ralph Bender, James Boner, John Byron, Clara & John Caldwell, Charlie and David Corm, Gable Cross, Noah Dodd, Rex Endrizzi, Brechin Flournoy, Judy Frank, Malcom Gay, Alberta Gray, Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoenig, Bill Horner, Leslie Hoskins, Russ Hoxie, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Kylie Jackson, Rev. George Johnson, Ward Jones, Doris Jung, Mary Keenan, Tom Kelly, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Pam Mitchell, Ian Ollie, Joe Prieuer and family, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Debbie Reighard, Sharon, Mary Kathryn Rivera, Liz Stark, Jenny, the Titus family, Kim Tuer, Anna Watt-Morse, Tristan Weisel, Steve and Jenny West.

### **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-Karsten, 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 & Collin White.



**5/7 Rob and Kristina Randig 26 yrs.**  
**5/23 Renu and Marvin Moon 32 yrs.**



**5/2 Rob 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**  
**5/18 Rich Oelschlaeger**  
**5/21 Olivia Petrbook**  
**5/23 Elisabeth Jenkins**  
**5/23 Karin Lee**  
**5/24 Lauren Martin**  
**5/25 Joaquin Alfonso**  
**5/25 Max Johnson**  
**5/31 Scott Moon**

## Messages~

The church office is open and staffed only a few days a week right now but please know that you can call the office at 562 598-2433 anytime and leave a message if there is anything you might need. It may be as simple as a question about watching worship services or contact info for local community agencies or it may be a request for pastoral care, shopping assistance, rides to doctors' appointments, etc. We can help you get the answers or support you need. Your voice mail messages are sent to our personal phones so we can get back to you whether or not we are actually in the office.

You can also email us at [officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com) and we will get back to you asap.

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Due to the circumstances surrounding our congregation, our community, and the world, **This is Church. Welcome Home! Seeing with 2020 Vision** is on hold until further notification. There are so many activities that have to be cancelled and personal focus is on safety and care for the vulnerable. Andy Trost, chairperson, and Pastor Pam are in weekly contact with our consultant Phyllis Wiederhoeft to determine when it is reasonable to restart the capital campaign. Please keep all in your prayers, knowing that God guides us through difficult times. Call upon one another for support and share that God moves among you even when plans change.

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Please look for our newest **Christ Lutheran Group on Facebook** and join it!! You are free to post pics, stories of hope, meaningful bible verses, acts of kindness you want to share with your church family. **This page is for YOU!!**

Also, down load **Zoom** on any device (you just type zoom into the search bar, and it walks you through the steps to sign up) so it will be free and easy. You do need a camera on your computer, laptop, phone, or tablet if you want to join and see others, but just signing up for a free account is a way to reach out to others. You can then invite others to join you for a look see or you can be invited to join in other group chats. Thanks so much, stay safe and take care...Peace, Lisa Cottrell