



**Pastor Pam's Pennings**

**July 2020  
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*"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." Genesis 8:22*

This verse is at the end of the story of Noah's Ark, right after the rainbow appeared and God made the covenant not to destroy the whole earth with a flood. God's promises are a good thing for us to remember in these days of stress and wondering when (if) things will ever get back to normal. It was months and months before Noah and his family, and all of the animals on the ark were allowed to wander around freely – with no restrictions. We can take a lesson from Noah – patience and prayer – and not necessarily in that order!

As we begin in person and continue the live stream worship on July 5, it will help us all to remember that we are living in abnormal times, just like Noah. And God was with them, just as God is with us!

Things cannot feel the same as they were back in February – to ensure that everyone who gathers for worship will be safe, and feel safe. I hope you have taken the time to read and digest all of the protocols for gathering before you come. It's a LOT to digest! This letter will also be posted on our website if you should happen to lose your family copy.

We have made the decision not to have VBS this summer to keep all of the children and leaders safe. It was a difficult decision, but a necessary one for this year.

The preschool has been back in their new protocols for the last few weeks. Things seem to be going well for the most part. It is so great to hear the teachers and students on campus after such a long time away. Mr. Brian and I will continue to live stream chapel services for our preschool (and anyone else who would like to participate) on Sunday mornings between services, around 9:45am.

We will be timing things on July 5 and adjusting the schedule accordingly. This is why we **haven't** advertised a drive-through communion time after the second service; we simply don't know when that time will be. So, hang in there with us and we will advertise this half-hour time, the week of July 5!

These are interesting times. We can trust that God, who walked with Noah through flood and a **long** wait for the water to recede, is with us, too!

+Blessings+

Pastor Pam



Hello my friends,

Yes...I know my past few newsletters made Homer's Odyssey seem like a quick read, so this month I will be brief.



Most of my plans are laid out in the Worship and Music protocol given to you all in preparation for us worshipping together again in July. I know it is strict and will seem to make our beautiful sanctuary a little like something out of a dystopian novel (ex. Orwell's 1984); however, it is for your own safety (most important is that those who need to worship together will finally have that opportunity).

As rules and restrictions lessen, we will re-evaluate when the time comes—contrary to or in agreement with what the state and/or government allows—making decisions based on your well-being.



As for music, when it is safer, we will sing again...but for now, we can't. Roger and I will still make the worship experience as wonderful as possible...but for now, please do not sing along (eventually, we will progress into humming and then soft singing, but for now please keep everyone safe by not singing).



Once we make it through summer and we get a better look into what we can offer this fall, I will determine what type of music program we will actually have this Fall. Although choir is not allowed at the moment, we may have instrument ensembles including possibly the handbells. More on this in months to come.



Please be patient with the camera and wires/cables when you return to worship. We feel it is very important to maintain our live-streaming for those who cannot come to services due to safety concerns.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again!

Your humble director,

*Brian*



# Preschool News

The Preschool staff returned to working on campus on June 1<sup>st</sup> to get everything prepped and ready for our reopening. We reopened on June 15<sup>th</sup> with 44 students enrolled for our summer session which will end on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Everyone seems to have transitioned to our new protocols well and we are getting on with our summer program.

Our theme for the whole summer will be



Our weekly themes will include: Welcome Back;



a whole new world,



Castle/Royal Invitation to the Kingdom,



Stars & Stripes/All American,



Mountains/Nature,



Island/Jungle,



Countryside/Farm,



Ocean/Pirate Adventure,



Arctic/Eskimo life is "Snow" much fun,



and Desert/A dazzling place you never knew.



We will not be able to have special visitors this summer, but we will still have lots of creative fun!

Wishing you all a fun summer!

*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** does not meet in the summer months.



Please watch this newsletter in August about the restart of these 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:** Daniel Howard, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Gary and Linda Zimmerman.

**Family & Friends:** Gladi Adams, Jeri Cooper Alacano, Marilyn Armstrong, Sandi Bender, Ralph Bender, James Boner, John Byron, Clara & John Caldwell, Charlie and David Corm, Gable Cross, Noah Dodd, Tamra Fitzgerald, 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, Judi Kirby, Tom Kelly, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Pam Mitchell, Kay Murdock, Ian Ollie, Joyce Pressler, Joe Prieuer and family, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Debbie Reighard, Sharon, Jolene Smith, Jeff Spangler, Liz Stark, Jenny, the Titus family, Kim Tuer, John White, 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, Gabriel Gallegos, Richard Gallegos, Chandler Hoover, John Lambertson, 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.



- 7/10 **Jeanne and Phil Peterson**
- 7/18 **Ann and Rich Williams**
- 7/20 **Casey Burkard and Mark Smith**
- 7/28 **Rebecca and Matt Green**



- 7/4 **Ken Yliniemi**
- 7/11 **Noah Timney**
- 7/11 **Matt Weisel**
- 7/12 **Ben Elliott**
- 7/20 **DJ Trujillo**
- 7/22 **Jenn Ostergren**
- 7/29 **Sydney Nichols**
- 7/30 **Rebecca green**

## Messages~

The Church in Society committee will be taking offerings during the month of July to buy food for Christ Lutheran's dinner at COA (Christian Outreach in Action). As there will not be any special giving envelopes in the pews right now, please add your contribution to your regular offering envelope and write how much of it goes to the COA dinner. Thank you so much for your continued commitment to this ministry even though we cannot go to this shelter to cook and serve.

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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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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



## Some of the new worship protocols

1. We will temporarily return to 2 services (8:30 and 10:30) to provide for better social distancing and will continue to offer communion after each service (see protocol 10 for how communion will be conducted) as well as drive through communion at 11:45am -12:15pm.
2. Before you enter the Narthex, ushers will take individual health surveys and your temperature. You will be given hand sanitizer and the ushers will direct you to a specific seat. We will alternate seating to the outside of both sides in one pew and the center of the next pew with one pew between for adequate social distancing – providing seating for up to 45 people per service.
3. Everyone must wear a mask for the duration of the service (we will provide if someone doesn't have one).
4. Only the restroom off the Narthex will be available for use.
  - a. Sanitizing wipes will be available, and ushers will ensure restroom is clean after each use.
5. There will be no singing. Humming is okay!
6. There will be no Passing of the Peace other than what we can do safely from a distance. We have ideas!

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7. You will exit out the back door toward the labyrinth. There will be no farewell from Pastor Pam at the exit after service.

8. Communion will be conducted at the end of service outside near the labyrinth, and we will take the following precautions:

a. Pastor will wear gloves and a mask.

b. The wafer will be dropped by a gloved hand into the hand of the communicant.

c. A personal disposable communion cup of wine or grape juice will be provided.

d. Communicant disposes the empty cup in the provided receptacles.

9. Offering will be collected at the end of service as people are leaving.10.

10. There will be no coffee cart.

11. Ushers and Altar Guild training will be provided regarding new protocols.

This is a work in progress, and we appreciate your attention and assistance as we craft these policies to protect our church family.

Thank you,

*Pastor Pam, Brian, Kim and your Worship Committee*



To the pastors, deacons, and people of the congregations of the Southwest California Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Grace to you and peace, in the name of the Triune God!

Dear siblings in the Lord Jesus, I write to you today with a mix of strong feelings to tell you that I will be laying down my responsibilities as your bishop at the end of next month, on the last day of July. On the following day, I will assume the presidency of United Lutheran Seminary in Pennsylvania, to which I was elected by its board of trustees yesterday.

Just a year ago, I would not have predicted this turn of events. When I was elected to a second term as bishop last summer, I entered into it with fresh enthusiasm for the work I have been called to do, and a deep sense of gratitude for the trust and faith you as a synod have shown in me for seven years now. I have always tried to do my work with integrity, and to witness to Christ and our Lutheran faith as strongly and consistently as I can, both within our church and to the city and world around us. There has been no greater joy or honor in my life than to be able to serve you in this way. So I don't end this chapter of our life together lightly or without considerable prayer.

I was approached by United Lutheran Seminary just before Holy Week to begin an exploratory conversation with them about the presidency, and entered into the conversation in earnest after Easter and through the weeks that followed. In this time of pandemic and quarantine, of course, everything had to be done remotely. But since I have served on ULS's board for two years already, I felt I knew the institution well, and in turn I was known to them to some degree. The final decision was reached last week and formalized only yesterday. I wanted you to know as quickly as possible.

In some ways, I am returning for this late chapter of my career to what I know best and what I have done the most. I expect you know that before I was elected bishop in 2013, my career had been mainly focused on teaching and theological education. I started as a seminary professor in the 1990s at Yale Divinity School, then came to California to teach Lutheran theology and church history at Cal Lutheran in Thousand Oaks twenty years ago. All through that time I worked part-time in congregations, so in a sense moving into the bishop's office was an extension of that—full time in administration and every weekend in a church. I think it will be easy for you to imagine that the call to return to the academic setting was strong for me, and ULS is a distinguished institution anyone would be proud to lead.

Your synod is in good shape and in good hands: the synod Vice President, Randall Foster, is going to serve another year, until we can hold a Synod Assembly in June 2021. The Synod Council is full of energetic leaders. Financial resources are sufficient for our needs this year and next, and our Treasurer, Mike Metzger is competent and hardworking, as is our Secretary, Pastor Keith Banwart. I have discussed this transition with them, and they will play important roles in the months ahead.

What happens next, is that the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA will appoint an interim bishop (normally a retired ELCA bishop from another synod) to do those things that only a bishop can do, as the synod goes through the process of discerning who to choose as the next permanent bishop at an Assembly—most likely next June. Our very capable synod staff will stay in place through that interim year, and possibly beyond—I think they are the best staff any bishop could ask for, and they will continue to serve you and the interim bishop well.

I know that this news will disappoint many of you—it has been wonderful for me to be able to serve as your bishop, and I hope that my ministry in this role has helped some of you do your ministry in the world. You made history by electing me, and I am confident that our synod has more history yet to make, as it moves into an unpredictable but exciting future of preaching the gospel and building beloved community in the territory of our five counties and especially in Los Angeles. Rob and I will find it hard to leave our beloved LA, pack our Dodgers caps, and move to Philadelphia this summer—but the hardest part is that this quarantine lockdown will probably make it impossible for me to say goodbye in person.

These are complicated days for us right now: the virus, the political atmosphere, and the strains that accompany our necessary and important work against racism in our land and in our church. But we know that we can do what we need to do. We know that the church of Christ stands firm in all winds. And we place our trust in God, without whom none of our undertakings can prosper and in whom all will be well. I give thanks to God for you, our synod, and the whole ELCA—and I look forward to continuing to serve the church we love in a new capacity. God bless and keep you all!

Bishop Guy Erwin

June 9, 2020