



Pastor Pam's Pennings

**October 2020
Volume 64, Issue 10**

[Jesus] answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' Luke 10:27

October is Stewardship month here at Christ Lutheran. 2020 has been a YEAR, hasn't it?!?! As we pray for the end to the COVID crisis and all of its implications, we can look forward and think that this will end...someday... someday soon!

Dave and I have been using a book written by Brian McLaren (entitled *Seeking Aliveness*) in our morning devotions. He has a week set aside on stewardship. It's so good, I thought I'd share it!

"Stewardship applies to all areas of our lives: how we use time, potential, possessions, privilege, and power. We seek to make the most of our time, not wasting time – but also remembering that rest and celebration are great uses of time. We seek to develop our potential; we remember that our native abilities are gifts from God. We seek to use our possessions for others; if we have homes, we practice hospitality; if we have transportation, we seek to help others in need; if we have extra clothing or equipment or food...we find greater joy in giving than in hoarding. Some of us were given privileges based on our social class, race, or place of birth, and we decide to use our privileges as 'haves' to serve the 'have-nots,' so opportunities are fairly shared. In the same way, whatever power we have we use to empower others.

Whatever we do, we try to give it our very best, because we work for Christ and not just for money or for ourselves...Practically speaking, stewardship means living below our means. We do so by dividing our income into three parts. First, we determine a percentage that we will use to provide for our needs and the needs of our families. That's just basic decency. Second, we determine the percentage to save, since wisdom requires foresight for both anticipated future needs and unexpected emergencies. Third, we set aside the largest portion we can for God's work of compassion, justice, restoration, and peace. Many people discover the blessing of investing a tenth of their income in God's work, and some even go beyond that, increasing their 'standard of giving,' not just their 'standard of living,' whenever their income increases....That's what stewardship is, really: love in action." *Seeking Aliveness* pp. 281-282

You are, as I have often told you, the MOST GENEROUS congregation I have ever served. I am so proud of the way you have understood, embraced, and lived stewardship in this congregation, and thereby, in the world. It's how you roll, and I am grateful for my predecessors who made this a part of the DNA of our congregation.

It's been a strange year and yet you have remained faithful to the ministry and mission of our congregation. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

May you reach new depths of understanding that stewardship is *agape* (perfect love) in action!

+Blessings+

Pastor Pam



Just a short update this month. I am preparing music for Christmas even though we will not all be together. Once I figure out exactly what will work, I will contact my choir who I miss dearly, and begin the following: doing virtual rehearsals to learn material for the future, put together virtual choir performances for Sunday worship, and just fellowship. As for hand bells, when things become a little safer, we could possibly bring a few of us together like we already do with the string trio.

It was a little bit depressing taking apart the upstairs room I created for the Kaleidoscope kids; but our new guests Namaste are a welcomed sight indeed!

Once again, please do not use the side door in the sanctuary that leads out to the preschool rooms and bathrooms due to a faulty lock.

Hope to see you all in church soon!

Your humble director,

Brian



Preschool News

Our Fall session began on Monday, August 31 and we are off to a great start. We had Back to School night on Monday, September 14 via Zoom. The parents got to chat with the teachers and get a virtual tour of their child's classroom.

Now as we move in to October, things continue to look a little different, but we will adapt as needed. We will be closed on Friday, October 16 for a staff development day. Our staff will be doing an in-house training since the CRECEF conference we usually attend will not be held this year due to COVID 19. We will end our month with our Harvest Fest celebration on Friday, October 30.

Since we are not able to do Trunk-or-Treat or have school-wide activities on the yard, we will be celebrating a little differently this year. The children will be able to dress up and have a little parade around the courtyard with music. We will have each class separated around the labyrinth while they take turns walking the circle in the middle of the courtyard. They will then go back to their classrooms to enjoy a special activity/game and a treat. Parents will be invited to join in on the fun virtually via Zoom.

Blessings for a beautiful Fall!
Lisa Clinton

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, Mary Thoen, Gary and Linda Zimmerman.

Family & Friends: Marylyn, Terry, Gladi Adams, Jeri Cooper Alacano, Marilyn Armstrong, Sandi Bender, Ralph Bender, John Byron, Clara & John Caldwell, Charlie and David Corm, Mary Croes, Gable Cross, Brechin Flournoy, Alberta Gray, Cindy Gray, Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoenig, Bill and Teria Horner, Leslie Hoskins, , Kylie & Crystal Huber, Rev. George Johnson, Victoria Johnson, Doris Jung, Mary Keenan, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Pam Mitchell, Ian Ollie, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Debbie Reighard, Jolene Smith, Anna Watt-Morse, 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, 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.



- 10/1 Kristine and Andy Trost**
- 10/3 Teresa and Greg Lowther**
- 10/12 Annette and Jeff Rodrigues**
- 10/14 Sara and Sean Benoit**
- 10/27 Chris and Kathy Klute-Nelson**



- 10/2 Lucas Hood**
- 10/5 Glenn Hoxie**
- 10/6 Justin Swagler**
- 10/8 Lauren Trost**
- 10/11 Chris Nelson**
- 10/18 Seth Nelson**
- 10/18 Lonnie Timney**
- 10/20 Sheryl Hunter**
- 10/24 Wanda Cleland**
- 10/30 Grant Green**
- 10/31 Roger Bredenkamp**
- 10/31 Zach Petrbock**

News~

The Church in Society committee has developed a new giving plan for the rest of this year. Since we are not able to be in worship together, which makes it very difficult to bring material donations for the ministries we support, we will focus on specific programs each month and collect financial contributions to distribute. Until we return to the physical church space, special offerings can be designated in the memo line of the check or information box on PayPal.

When you drive by for communion on Sunday mornings in October, please be sure to take a few "VOTE" buttons. Give these to friends, family or neighbors to remind everyone that it is their privilege to participate in our country's government processes.

The committee also wants to thank everyone for donating to the LSS school supply drive. We donated several bags of school supplies and several gift cards for more purchases. LSS was very thrilled with the donations and they were also quite happy to receive the canned food donations. Ron Nelson also took over several bags of oranges from his tree yesterday. Keep LSS and COA in mind when you have items to donate. Their addresses can be found on line or call the church office for their locations.

Following are the focus areas for the rest of 2020. Eventually, we hope to solicit ideas from the congregation and hopefully have other members tell about their groups.

October: Habitat: International Habitat for Humanity month. We will take special offerings this month in addition to the regular Habitat gifts we receive. Money collected will go towards the 50 houses planned for Long Beach.

November: Miracle Ranch

December: COA (Christian Outreach in Action) Money collected will go towards our regular 5th Wednesday meal.

Members who have pledged to organizations such as Habitat or Miracle Ranch will continue with their regular pledges.

When we return to "normal" we will resume collecting **items** for the CSULB Food Bank, Joanie's Purses, New Life Beginnings, COA, and LSS (Lutheran Social Services).



If you are a Ralph's Shopper, please add Christ Lutheran to the Community Programs partnership attached to your Ralph's card. We received a donation for **\$70.62** from just **9** households for the last three months!

We also receive contributions from **Amazon Smile** if you designate Christ Lutheran as the charity of choice for eligible purchases. We have received **\$327.40** since the first of this year. Thanks so much!



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 and we will get back to you asap.

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. CLC members meet every other Thursday for conversation and activities on **Zoom**. You do need a camera on your computer, laptop, phone, or tablet if you want to **see** others. You can always join these meetings without cameras; you can listen in and be heard yourself. Thanks so much, stay safe and take care...Peace, Lisa Cottrell

After at least thirty years, the church campus will undergo a re-keying project this month. This is something that is included in the 10 Year Plan. The timetable has been moved up, as many projects have, due to the necessity of securing our church property. After October 17th, current keys will not work in any locks on campus and they can be destroyed. We will make sure that those who need keys for Sunday the 18th and Monday, the 19th will have them. After that, please make arrangements with Kim in the office to obtain a new key if you need one. If you choose not to replace your key, let Kim know so that she can check to see if you have a key deposit to be returned.

We have edited names from our prayer list and may have removed someone that you wish us to continue to pray for, if so, please contact Kim in the church office by phone or email to add those people or anyone else you believe needs congregation prayers. Thanks so much.



American Red Cross

Christ Lutheran Church and the American Red Cross are hosting an upcoming blood drive. Please join our lifesaving mission and schedule an appointment today!

Drive Details:

Site: Christ Lutheran Church

Address: 6500 Stearns Ave, Long Beach, CA, 90815

Room Name: Social Hall

Date: Sun Nov 1, 2020

Time: 08:30 AM - 02:30 PM

Blood Program Leader Name: Kim Croes

Blood Program Leader Phone Number: 562.598.2433

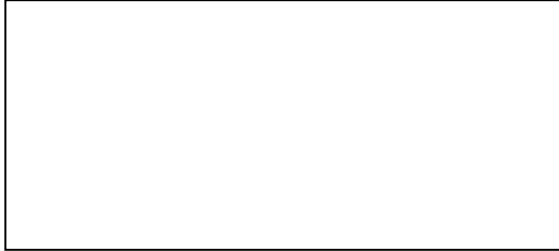
We still do not know when we will return to the Sanctuary for worship, but when the time does come, here are the protocols we will follow.

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 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, 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!
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.

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.

**Christ Lutheran Church
6500 Stearns street
Long Beach, CA 90815-3497**

Return service Requested



Mission Statement:
Christ Is Alive!

Vision Statement:

Christ Lutheran Church is a community of believers committed to praising our Savior Jesus Christ. With His love, we reach out to those in need and welcome all with open hearts. Our worship dynamically combines word, song and prayer to share God's incredible message. Having faith in this, we go forth knowing that with God and the power of the Holy Spirit, anything is possible.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
October 15, 2020

Life In Christ

Is the newsletter of

Christ Lutheran Church

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