



December 2020
Volume 64, Issue

Pastor Pam's Pennings

♪Fast away the old year passes ♪...

I am certain we all agree that 2020 cannot finish fast enough! It's hard to believe that one year ago this month we were just starting to hear reports about a new virus in China. And now? Every country and nation on our planet knows the effects of the coronavirus strain on its people. Here in Long Beach, the cases are on the rise and we are being cautioned about gathering for the holidays. Who knows? By the time this goes to print, we may be in another "shelter in place" order.

What to do for Christmas? This is the #1 question that Brian and I are dealing with these days. We know for sure we will livestream a Christmas Eve service at 3pm on the 24th. We are waiting until we are closer to Christmas Eve to let you know when or if we will have outdoor candle light services on Christmas Eve at 5 & 7pm. This all depends on the infection rates, our Governor, and the safety of you, our Christ Lutheran family. As of right now, we are not planning a Christmas morning service, but that may change.

What do we do for Christmas? I truly believe this is a moment in our history to remember what Christmas is. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of a peasant boy-child who was born in a cave-like dwelling for animals. His parents were far from home and all alone in a strange town. This baby, Jesus, took his first nap in an animal's feeding trough after his mother, Mary, wrapped him in rags.

How has Christmas gotten so crazy and so off point?!?! Why **are** we so stressed over the perfect presents, the perfect décor, the perfect meal, the perfect tree?

I implore you this Christmas season to look closely at that Nativity scene you put out and to recognize the true gift of Christmas. It's not the presents, or the food, or the decorations.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus...Emmanuel (God with us).

Put away the stress and look on the simple beauty of God's love.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Pam



Hello my friends,

As I write this newsletter, we are already planning for different scenarios for Christmas Service. One such scenario would have us all come together—outside, masked, and proper social distancing—for a short service with candles; however, with the current numbers and the vaccine still awhile away, this seems unlikely...at the moment.

Regardless, I will plan the best music possible for the 3:00pm Christmas Eve Service which we will live-stream. As for the Advent season: anyone who wants to record a video of them performing/singing special music for our Sunday morning services, please let me know. I know everyone would be most appreciative.

Hope to see you all in church soon! Merry Christmas!

Your humble director,

Brian





Preschool News

November seemed to fly by. On the 25th we celebrated Thanksgiving with individual classroom feasts. The children had lots of fun making centerpieces and placemats to decorate their tables. They also sang a song and said a prayer before the meal. Pictures and video were posted on the Brightwheel app for parents to see.



Our pajama day will be on December 2nd. We will have a school-wide pajama day where the children can come to school in their pajamas and we will collect donations of new pajamas and new or gently used books to donate to LSS.



In order to maintain stable groups and not mix classrooms, one of the preschool parents filmed our annual Christmas program early in November and put it together for us. We will have a "viewing party" on the scheduled program date of December 18th. We will send home a bag of cookies and packets of hot cocoa along with a link to view the program at a certain time so that we can all watch it together in spirit. All of the children participate in the "Who Is Coming to Our House" Christmas program. The Owl and Raccoon Rooms will be our stable animals and Mary & Joseph, The Bear Room will be angels, the Fox Room will be little drummer boys & girls, the Hedgehog Room will be shepherds and sheep as well as the star and three wise men. The Squirrel Room babies will be having a birthday party to celebrate Jesus and the show will be set as a story being read to the Bunny Room babies.

We will be closed for winter break December 24th through January 1st. School will resume on January 4th.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!
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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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 is not meeting right now. They are trying to schedule some outdoor events. Please watch this newsletter for information 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, Phil Peterson, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Jacob Treat, 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 and Max Croes, Tamra, 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, the McGee family, Pam Mitchell, Ian Ollie, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Debbie Reighard, Jolene Smith, Anna Watt-Morse, Woody, Miguel, 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, Ethan Cordle, 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.



- 12/3 Angel Trujillo**
- 12/6 Shirley Pierce**
- 12/8 Judy Haenn**
- 12/13 Samantha Benoit**
- 12/13 Daniel Peralta**
- 12/13 Linda Zimmerman**
- 12/14 Kara Ihrig**
- 12/15 Claudia Fitzpatrick**
- 12/17 Robin Black**
- 12/18 Renu moon**
- 12/19 Angie Nelson**
- 12/23 Annette Rodrigues**
- 12/27 Pat Barnett**
- 12/31 Ruth Benner**

In Memoriam

Marianne Louise Nelson

July 23, 1945



November 7, 2020

Marianne Nelson, wife of former Southwest California Synod Bishop Dean Nelson, died at Hoag Memorial Hospital in Newport Beach, on Saturday, November 7, 2020. Only days before her death she was diagnosed with a rare blood disorder related to the autoimmune disease she had lived with for decades, and in spite of aggressive treatment, she did not survive.

Marianne was born on July 23, 1945, in Chicago, Illinois, the third surviving child born to parents Harry and Mary nee McIntyre Anderson. She was baptized on Easter Sunday, 1946 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Chicago by Pastor Alfred O Storvick, and confirmed there by Pastor Talbert R Ronning in 1959. She attended Chicago Public Schools, and graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota with a major in Elementary Education and English in 1967.

She and Dean were married on August 19, 1967. While Dean was in seminary Marianne taught fourth grade in St. Paul Public Schools, and while he was on internship she taught in Kenwood, California. Dean's first call was in Enid, Oklahoma, and both their children, Kirsten Marie and Mark Andrew were born there. When the family moved to Chicago in 1974, Marianne was active in the congregation, community and did substitute teaching at the local neighborhood school. When they

relocated to Milwaukee in 1983, Marianne went to work for the Milwaukee Public Schools, where she taught first grade for ten years in an inner city school. She completed a master's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee while teaching full time. When the Nelsons moved to Torrance in 1995, Marianne began teaching fourth grade again at First Lutheran School, and continued teaching there until 2014 when she retired. In her 32 years of teaching she touched the lives of hundreds of students and their parents.

Marianne loved teaching children and learning new things with them. She was an avid reader and life-long learner. She participated in the book club, Women's Bible study, and bell choir at First Lutheran. She enrolled in continuing education classes with Omnimore, sponsored by CSU-Dominguez Hills. She was a strong advocate for justice, and a hospitable, gracious, and caring woman open to all. She was a woman of faith and curiosity, whose radiant smile greeted many.

She is survived by her husband Dean, her daughter and son-in-law Kirsten and Keith Calabrese, her son Mark, her two grandchildren Henry and Lena, her brother Harry Anderson Jr and his wife Carol, and other relatives, friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.

A Memorial Service proclaiming the Easter gospel and celebrating her life will take place at First Lutheran Church in Torrance next year when it is safe for larger groups to gather. Her ashes will be scattered in the ocean she so greatly enjoyed and dearly loved sometime afterwards. Persons wishing to honor her memory may send donations to First Lutheran School, 2900 W. Carson, Torrance, CA 90503.

***Eternal Rest grant her, O Lord,
and may Light Perpetual shine upon her.***

News~

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*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.

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.

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, New Life Beginnings, COA, and LSS (Lutheran Social Services). Keep LSS and COA in mind when you do have items to donate. You can take items directly to their locations even though we are not collecting for them tight now. Their addresses can be found on line or call the church office for their phone numbers.

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.

Kristina Randig and Pastor Pam will be hosting a Zoom Chrismon Making Event on Sunday, December 6th at 12:30pm Please contact Kim in the church office if you would like to reserve a spot and receive a crafting kit for this Advent activity.



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!!**

All locks on our church campus have been updated and changed. 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.

Phil Peterson would like to thank everyone for their prayers, well wishes and cards received during his recent health challenges. Your care and concern is so appreciated by both him and Jeanne.

Ken Yliniemi has a new address: 5002 16th Ave. S. Apt 206 Fargo, ND 58103

We will once again be collecting pajamas and books for children attending Lutheran Social Services Christmas Party



During the Black Friday sales and the Cyber Shopping days would be a great time to get some deals on little pairs of jammies for babies, toddlers, and young kids. The children are given an age appropriate book to go with their pj's at the Christmas party, so we are looking for donations of those too. New or gently used are most welcome. Please drop these items off at church on Sunday, November 22, 29 and December 6 or make arrangements with Kim for weekday drop off.



Fraud is on the rise and F&M Bank is here to help you fight back with Operation S.A.F.E. This week's topic is **PHISHING**. Phishing scams typically arrive by email, text message, phone call, social media message, or website link and attempt to get the target to reveal personal and financial information. Phishing may involve spoofing of an email address, phone number, or website URL.

To help protect yourself, read about the ways to avoid falling victim to fraud:

- Always **validate email addresses and URLs** against what you have on file to ensure it is not fake.
- **Don't trust Caller ID** on your phone.
- **Never click links** in unsolicited emails or text messages.
- **Never provide personal or confidential information** in response to an email, call, or text.
- **Verify payment/purchase requests** in person or via phone **not** by using the information provided by the scammer in the email or text message.
- **Be suspicious** if you are being pressured to **act quickly**.
- **Be careful what you share publicly online** – it can be used against you.

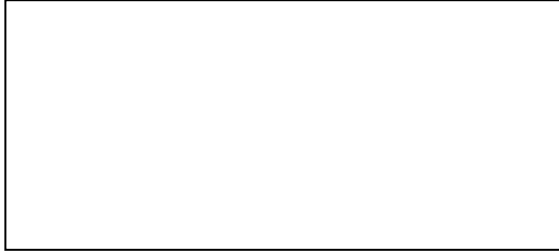
*May you know the comfort and joy of God's presence this
Christmas and always.*

Pastor Pam, Brian, and Kim



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
December 15, 2020

Life In Christ

Is the newsletter of

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