



Pastor Pam's Pennings

**November 2020
Volume 64, Issue 11**

*It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
Psalm 92:1*

This November is unlike any November I can recall. There is so much stress all around us!

- The presidential election will soon reveal who our leader will be for the next four years. There have been major changes on the Supreme Court and in many of the courts around the country. The House and Senate may look different, too, by the time all the votes are counted. I'm sure you joined me in praying for a peace filled election process
- There is unrest in our country like we haven't felt in a long time. BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) are speaking up and speaking out regarding the systemic racism that permeates our country's many systems. Their voices must be heard, understood, and embraced so that we can truly become the country that most of us who are white believed it has always been.

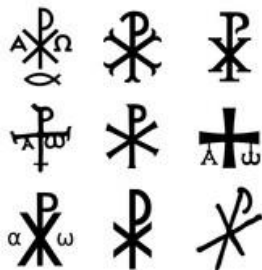
I'm learning more and more about my own white supremacy and how my natural default is to whiteness. I confess I have a long way to go and I am open to how I can help to make our country be a place of welcome and safety for ALL of God's people. After all, Lady Liberty herself says, "give me your tired, your poor, your

huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.” How often we forget that our ancestors were immigrants, too. Some more recently than others!

- We are still in the midst of a Coronavirus pandemic. Traveling to see family may not feel safe. Gathering on Thanksgiving Day may be different too, due to real losses this year of people you love. Empty chairs...broken hearts...

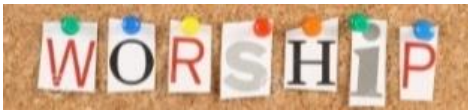
We are not alone in this reality of 2020. God is always with us. I'm attaching a "Celebrate and Give Thanks" Calendar for this month with simple things to give thanks for each and every day. I hope you will use it and share it with others you know who may be feeling sad this season.

Do not lose heart, we'll be making Chrismons together in a Zoom Advent activity this month. Look and listen for the date/time.



In thanksgiving for God's constant presence,

Pastor Pam



Hello my friends,

After a year of drastic change to our way-of-life, I now have a new list of things to be thankful for that normally differ from previous years: 1) My health and well-being—otherwise known as “I-don’t-have-COVID-yet!”; 2) Financial Security—otherwise known as “I- haven’t -lost- my- jobs- and -my- place- to -live-yet”; and 3) My sanity worrying about #1 and #2.

Everyone has been affected by this pandemic and I feel for everyone; however, one of the saddest and frustrating events to transpire throughout all this chaos is our empty churches. Why?! Are we being punished for not being good Christians? Does God care about us filling His house with love once again? I wish I had the answer. I hate it even more when my atheist friends reply: “Where is your God now?”

Well, God is still with us and loves us and one day way down the road when we are with Him maybe God will explain to us the purpose behind 2020. As for now, I will continue to move forward with faith and hope.

I apologize for public venting, but this pandemic needs to be over with as of two weeks ago!

Hope to see you all in church soon!

Your humble director,

Brian



To All Veterans



Whether At Home Or Abroad

Active Duty ~ Reserves ~ Retired

All Americans Say:

THANK YOU!



Preschool News

October was a wonderful month at CLP. Since we could not have a professional photographer come in, Ms. Clinton took class pictures on the yard. We were closed on Friday, October 16th for a staff development day. The staff was able to utilize this time for some much needed inspiration and revitalization.

We could not have our usual Fall Fest and Trunk-or-Treating on Halloween due to COVID 19 restrictions. So we had a costume parade and classroom parties instead.



The children dressed up and each class took turns parading around the courtyard so the other children could see their costumes. Parents were invited to watch via Zoom. Then they returned to their classrooms for some fun harvest games and a special treat.

November 25th we will celebrate Thanksgiving most likely with individual classroom celebrations. Each classroom will make placemats and centerpieces to decorate and will sing a song and say a prayer before eating. We will be closed on November 26 & 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



In December we will be collecting pajamas and books for local children attending Lutheran Social Services' Christmas party. Watch for those deals on Black Friday and Cyber Monday!



Blessings for a beautiful month!

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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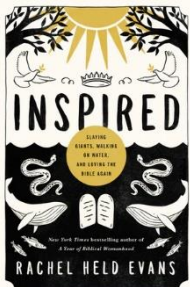


Adult Bible Study usually meets on the 2nd and 4th

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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New Book Study: Last Tuesday night of the month at 7:15pm via Zoom. Let Pastor Pam know if you want to participate.

Tuesday, November 24, 2020 @ 7:15pm! Please have read Chapters 2-4.



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, 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.



11/2 Amanda and Derek Johnson
11/20 Janice and Bary Schlieder



11/1 Casey Knight
11/1 Andy Trost
11/1 Doris Weinert
11/6 Brianna Nieves
11/6 Janice Schlieder
11/7 Ann Williams
11/9 Amy Altair
11/9 Mike Maricle
11/10 Addison Benoit
11/10 Jacob Treat
11/11 Justin Randig
11/15 Deborah Otterson
11/16 Ruth Barnes
11/16 Mike Freligh
11/17 Adriana Alfonso
11/18 Dawn Hass
11/20 Phil Peterson
11/22 Barbi Darnauer
11/23 Jeremy Rodrigues
11/25 Adam Elliott
11/25 Rick Panos
11/27 Beverly Nieves
11/28 Paige

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.

November: Miracle Ranch, Joanie's Purse (See Page 10)

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!!**

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. 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 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.



Read these six tips to help you become a cyber-security expert:

1. **Create strong passwords** and make sure your password is long. Substitute letters with numbers, punctuation marks, or symbols, or use a phrase for your password. Remember, length is much better than complexity when creating a strong passphrase.
2. **Never provide personal or confidential information** in response to an email, call, or text. Instead, call the individual directly using contact information you have on file.
3. **If you connect it, protect it.** Any device that connects to the internet is vulnerable to risk. The best defense is to keep device security software, web browser, and operating systems up-to-date.
4. **Use Two-Step Authentication** as a second layer of security for validating your identity when logging into online accounts (if the security feature is offered). This can be done through an authenticator app or a numeric code provided via text message, phone call, or email.
5. **Do not allow all mobile apps to track your location and access your private information.** Configure the privacy and security settings by app and help someone in your community do the same. Enable automatic updates so that your software runs smoothly and you stay protected against cyber threats.
6. **Beware of what you share.** Cyber criminals love it when you overshare on social media; they can learn all about you and your loved ones. Make it harder for them by avoiding posting real names, places you frequent, and home, school and work locations.



Joanie's Purse Project Holiday 2020

Bring cheer into the lives of women this holiday season!

“Joanie’s Purses” provides purses filled with personal care items, and small gifts to struggling women in Orange County. Recipients are women who are in transition, homeless, those in shelters, motels, safe houses, transitional living programs and various support programs to be empowered and independent.



Purses: Medium to Large Size, New or Gently Used

- **Personal Care Items: Sample or Travel Size**

Deodorant	Chapstick/Lip Balm	Body Wash/Bar Soap
Shampoo	Conditioner	Hand Sanitizer
Kleenex	Toothbrush	Toothpaste
Lotion	Net Scrubbies	Dental Floss

- **Gifts:**

Socks	Cosmetic Bags	Wallets	Bracelets/Necklaces
Scarves	Hair Brushes	Hair Clips	Feminine Hygiene Products
Notepads/Pens	Eye Liner	Mascara	Emery Boards

Deoderant and Hand sanitizer are the two items in great need right now.

Donation Deadline for Holiday: Sunday, November 22, 2020

You may bring your donations to church on Sunday mornings when you come for communion or to the office during the week. Call ahead to arrange to meet Kim.

Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good; His love endures forever.
- Psalm 118:1

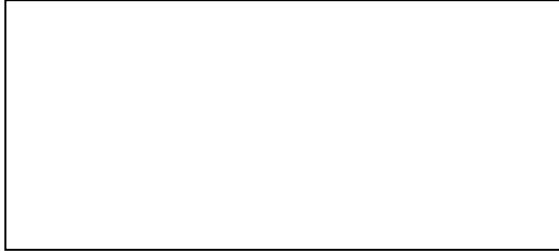


Wishing everyone a blessed Thanksgiving Day.

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
November 15, 2020

Life In Christ

Is the newsletter of

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Preschool 562.594.6117

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