



Pastor Pam's Pennings

**January 2021
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...see I make all things new! Revelation 21:5

Thank the LORD, 2021 is here! Thank the Lord that the COVID vaccine distribution system is now in place. Maybe soon we will be together in person again to worship God and sing out loud and strong! I pray for that Sunday when we can weep together and take communion as we once did! Surely it will be this year, 2021.

Instead of making New Year's resolutions this January 1, I'm going to plan to spend the day cleaning. I want to wash away this past year's dirt. I want to clean my cabinets and cupboards and get rid of the things that are not needed or are expired. Packing away, giving away, throwing away – to welcome this amazing gift of a New Year.

When I clean like this, it allows me time...time to think about what is important, and what is unimportant; what is weighing me down, and what is building me up. As I go through the cabinets and cupboards, I allow myself extra time to remember people who gave me the item I hold in my hand and to say a prayer of thanks for their influence in my life.

2021 is open to us. I invite you to make time each day to say thanks!

One way we can do that together is to join us at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 17th @ 1pm on Zoom. The invitation with the Zoom link will be coming out soon. We will be electing the leadership of our church, we call them the Congregation Council as well as voting on our 2021 budget, and doing some constitution changes mandated by the ELCA. Our Synod Assembly will be held in June of this year online. If someone would like to volunteer to attend, that would be awesome! We are allowed two voting members and one youth member. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve the congregation and the greater church!

+Blessings+

Pastor Pam



Hello my friends,

As I write this newsletter, we are finalizing preparations for Christmas Services. I know seeing everyone together on Zoom at the 5:00 candlelight zoom service will be special, if not bittersweet. With the coming of 2021, I believe in my heart that after these final few months of “the worst-to-come”—along with the new vaccines and continued social distancing and safety protocols—we will finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. Please hang in there and keep the Faith!

My New Year’s Eve resolution this year is simple and succinct: begin planning the next chapter at Christ Lutheran Church.

Hope to see you all in church soon!

Your humble director,

Brian





Preschool News

December 9th was our annual Pajama Day event. We collected 37 pairs of pajamas and a lot of books. We had a family deliver them to Lutheran Social Services for them to pass out at their Christmas party. They were truly appreciative of our generosity. Thank you to everyone that participated and helped in making someone's Christmas special this year!



We filmed our annual Christmas program early in November and had a virtual "viewing party" on the scheduled program date of December 18th. We sent home a bag of cookies and packets of hot cocoa along with a link to view the program at a specific time so that we could all watch it together in spirit. While it is sad not to be able to have a live performance, one of the benefits is being able to share the link with church members, grandparents, etc. so more people are able to enjoy the program. We hope this brought a little joy to people's lives in these challenging times.

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

Happy 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, 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, John Daly, John Dantuma and family, Tamra Fitzgerald, Brechin Flournoy, Alberta Gray, Cindy Gray, Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoenig, Ben Horner, Bill and Teria Horner, Leslie Hoskins, , Kylie & Crystal Huber, Victoria Johnson, Doris Jung, Mary Keenan, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, the McGee family, Pam Mitchell, Ian Ollie, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Debbie Reighard, Beth Schluemer, 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, Ethan Cordle, Michael Cote, Aaron Crayton, William Eaton, Damian Ellsworth, Gabriel Gallegos, Richard Gallegos, Chandler Hoover, John Lamberton, Brittany Graham-Karsten, Davis McElwain, Morgan Llewellyn, Haley Fessenden, Johnny Luna, Shawn McRae, Emily Merritt,

Brina Navarro, Steven Andrew Navarro, Michael Joseph Navarro, Jim Reeder, Sophie Schade, Douglas Steelhammer, Dominic Vancini, Jonah Westcott & Collin White.



1/2 Beverly Koenen
1/2 Jared Petrbock
1/5 Bary Schlieder
1/7 Kristine Trost
1/9 Matt Green
1/16 Linda McGee
1/18 Kathy Klute-Nelson
1/20 Marvin Moon
1/24 Rob Randig
1/27 Mark Ennen
1/27 Samia Hack
1/27 Garrett Latiolait





*The Church in Society committee will develop a new giving plan for 2021 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.

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*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 right now. Their addresses can be found on line or call the church office for their phone numbers.



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 **\$83.95** from just **12** 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 **\$376.77** 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!!**

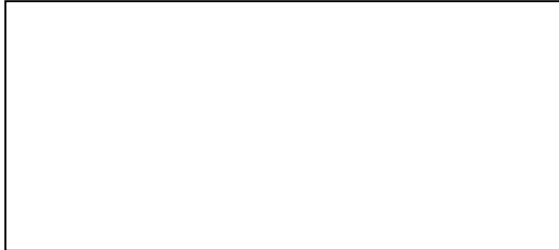
All locks on our church campus have been updated and changed. Please make arrangements with Kim in the office to obtain a new key if you need one. If you choose not to replace your key, let Kim know so that she can check to see if you have a key deposit to be returned.



Happy New Year

**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
January 15, 2020

Life In Christ

Is the newsletter of

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