



Pastor Pam's Pennings

February 2021
Volume 65, Issue 2

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return

It was a typical Ash Wednesday service. People gathered. We sang and prayed and confessed. We prepared to receive ashes, all in a row. Until, until the baby and her grandma came forward and as I placed ashes on this infant using the words written above, both grandma and I started to cry. She is so young! No way is this right, or fair, or just! One Ash Wednesday later, this toddler, when the words were spoken, looked right into my eyes and said, "I know." Grandma and I just cried...again.

I know I am dust and to dust I will return. I know I'm a mess – the world's a mess – and I need God's grace-filled touch. As the Worship Team and I discussed the upcoming Lent services, we decided on the following schedule:

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 17

- **DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES** – from **noon to 1pm** and from **6-7pm** in the drive-through format we use for Communion. Ashes will be distributed with oil infused 6" cotton swabs and disposed of immediately. I will be in mask and gloves to distribute!
 - Facebook livestream Ash Wednesday worship at 2:30pm.

SEASON OF LENT

- Each Wednesday afternoon at 2:30pm, we will have a midweek worship on Facebook live stream.

HOLY WEEK

- Palm Sunday, March 28 we will have our regularly timed worship at 9:30am
 - Maundy Thursday, April 1, @ 7pm with the stripping of the altar
 - Good Friday, April 2 @ 7pm

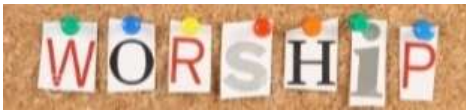
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

- Facebook live stream celebration of the resurrection @ 9:30am!

All of these worship experiences will be uploaded onto our YouTube channel and are available on Facebook any time!

I know I am dust and to dust I will return. I know I'm a mess – the world's a mess – and I need God's grace-filled touch. And God's touch is there for us – every time!

Blessed Lent to all of us. Pastor Pam



Hello my friends,

This month as we begin our Lenten journey I can reflect on this past year and the things I took for granted in the past. When the opportunities once again present themselves, I will not hesitate; for now, I can only hope those opportunities will once again transpire when this pandemic weakens.

As for church, although we will still have mid-week Lenten services, I will miss our fellowship time together during our soup meals. I am blessed and feel appreciative of many: our wonderful Pastor and staff, musicians and volunteers, readers, altar guild, and our beautiful congregation. Thank you!

Looking forward, when we get vaccinated and it becomes safer to gather together to worship, I can see us resuming our music groups as long as everyone gets their vaccine shots, maintains a safe distance, and continues to wear a mask. Until then, I will experiment with some new techniques in delivering music to our congregation. I was hoping that the latency problems would have been erased by now and we could have virtual choir rehearsals, still no luck! Thank you for your patience and support.

Hope to see you all in church soon!

Your humble director,

Brian

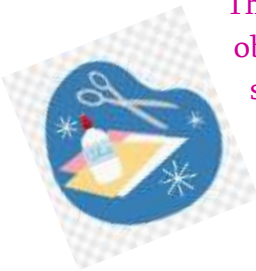


Preschool News

We had a very nice winter break December 23 through January 1st. School resumed on January 4th and January remained a pretty calm month. Normally, we would start preparing for our annual auction fundraiser, but due to COVID 19, we will not be having it this year.

In February we will have an altered Special Person Day on Feb 11th. Each child will get to bring a picture of someone who is special to them like a grandparent, aunt, or uncle and share about them to their friends.

They will do a couple special activities in the courtyard including an obstacle course, dying carnations, and making a card to take to their special person.



Wishing you 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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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: Adam Elliott, 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, Jeff Dahl, John Daly, John Dantuma and family, Tamra Fitzgerald, Brechin Flournoy, Alberta Gray, Cindy Gray, Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoening, 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, Martha Ortiz, Mark and Degas Peters, Joe Prieur, 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 Lambertson, 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.



- 2/5 **Doug Holdhusen and D'Jesus Trujillo**
- 2/27 **Angie and Ron Nelson**
- 2/28 **Gaby and Scott Ihrig**



- 2/1 **Harriette Probst**
- 2/2 **Janan Fancher**
- 2/3 **Sarah Swagler**
- 2/4 **Kathleen Davis**
- 2/5 **Angela Joseph**
- 2/7 **Gwen Ostergren**
- 2/9 **Nicole Stamer**
- 2/11 **Jeff Rodrigues**
- 2/12 **Frank Croes**
- 2/13 **Jeanne Paige Peterson**
- 2/14 **Chloe Halvorson**
- 2/17 **Rich Williams**
- 2/18 **Angie Rollins**
- 2/19 **Karen Wyrick**
- 2/20 **Laurel Elliott**
- 2/21 **Nancy Knight**
- 2/27 **Christine Chiem**





*The Church in Society committee has developed 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.

February – 2021 = Fe Y Esperanza

March – 2021 = COA- Donations to provide dinner

April – 2021 = Bright Stars Bethlehem

May – 2021 = Miracle Ranch

June – 2021 = COA-Donations to provide dinner

July – 2021= CSULB Food Pantry

August – 2021= Student backpacks- possibly for LSS

*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 regular collection of **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. There might be occasions where we will sponsor an in gathering of specially needed items for any of these organizations as situations arise.



the last three months!

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



We also receive contributions from **Amazon Smile** if you designate Christ Lutheran as the charity of choice for eligible purchases. We received **\$376.77** in 2020. Thanks so much!

Direct your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars
Today!



Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches. CLC has received **\$1,237.50** as of **12/31/2020**. Thank you to church members who have selected CLC to receive these charitable

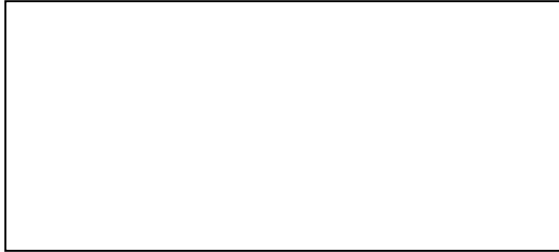
gifts.

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!!

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.

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
February 15, 2021

Life In Christ

Is the newsletter of

Christ Lutheran Church

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