



Pastor Pam's Pennings

March 2021
Volume 65, Issue 3

Lent

...I who am but dust and ashes. Genesis 18:27

One year ago this month, the world shut down and for many people in the US, it was Friday, March 13th that we were closed. With much fear and trepidation (accompanied by a lot of prayer and a whole LOT of learning), we began on Sunday, March 15th with our first live stream service on our Facebook page. We used my I-Phone 6 because that was what we had at hand. We have learned a lot! I look back with awe and wonder how somehow, our community of faith never missed a beat – ok...maybe a beat or two as we learned that the volume did need to be all the way up on my phone 😊! And, then there was that horrible Sunday when the microphone died on my phone 😞!

I'm thankful that we had made it through Ash Wednesday last year before we all shut down. Who would have guessed that marking foreheads with ashes would become such a symbol (at least for me) for the coming year. I know of some colleagues who didn't enter their sanctuaries until summertime, so the purple paraments of Lent were there to greet them.

Lent always seemed like a dismal season when I was a new Lutheran. First of all where we lived at the time, it was still very cold and dark. The lights of the Sanctuary could hardly stave off the darkness and purple (though it is my favorite color) was not the most reflective of colors!

Lent is the season of penitence, of preparation, of denial as we ready our bodies, minds and spirits for the joy-filled season of Easter.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. We hear

these words as ashes are smeared on our heads and we get a vivid gritty reminder of our humanity – and of the indelible promise that being a Christian means as the cross of our baptism is retraced in ashes.

As I look back, it feels like 2020 was a year of perpetual Lent – no gathering in person for months; and then, making ready for an opening in the summer only to be denied...again...and to wait until the COVID-19 pandemic numbers were reduced. Waiting for a vaccine, waiting for the trials, waiting for the good news of preparations, oh so Lent-like! And now we are waiting for enough vaccine to be administered for herd immunity.

In the meantime, friends and family were getting sick; some dying and some recovering quickly, while others recovered very slowly. This illness bringing vivid gritty reminders of our humanity.

This month, in this season of Lent, we are more prepared. We have cameras and microphones that work so live streaming and YouTube-ing are done with ease. Ash Wednesday was celebrated with our Facebook live stream, You Tube and two separate opportunities for ashes – using a long-handled, cotton swab while I was masked and gloved.

In this Lenten season, like no other before, we wait to hear the good news of the time when we move out of the “purple” tier of infection rate and that we have reached vaccine herd immunity, so we can open for in person worship once again.

But, most importantly in this season of Lent, like all others before, we prepare to hear that old, old story that is forever new! Jesus, once dead, is now alive and well, and living among all of us, for all people!

Lenten blessings,

Pastor Pam



Hello my friends,

As I write this newsletter, we have now entered the Lenten season. Last year, we had a few weeks of Lent together before everything shut-down; this year, we are not so fortunate. We have tried to make the best of this situation, but we all yearn to be back together again. Please do not let your guard down. Even after you receive a vaccine, continue to wear a mask and social distance. Even when we all come back together, we will instill the same safety protocols we had in place last summer when we thought we were coming back together. Why? Because 95% is not 100%. We fill the church the first weekend back without protocols and 3-5 will still get the virus.

With all the new variants, even those who have been diligent about safety protocols are starting to get the virus because now it is even more contagious. But!...I do not need to tell you all this. If you are like me and have had people you personally know get sick and die from this, you know what I'm talking about. Nothing has changed, vaccine or no vaccine, until we get everyone vaccinated and make that 95% = 95% of 3%. Then, it becomes like measles, whooping cough, et al. I do not like the "experts" saying it will become like the seasonal flu. NO!!!! This flu does not attack the human body like the seasonal flu and that is a risk I never want to take again.

I am sorry to use this public forum to rant but I am fed up with all of this...as I know you are! Stay safe my friends. I want to see every one of you when we are back together again.

I WILL see you all in church soon!

Your humble director,

Brian



Preschool News

The Church Council held a staff appreciation week to thank the preschool staff for working through the pandemic. The staff was so appreciative of all the special treats every day. They have been working very hard and it was so nice of Council to recognize that.

Each year, "Special Person Day" has provided an opportunity for CLP children to share their school day with one "special person" such as a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or parent. Due to current Covid-19 Guidelines we had to make a few changes to how our special event looked this year. Although we cannot celebrate with everyone in person, we asked that each child still choose a special person. This year instead of bringing their special person to school, we asked that parents send their child with a stuffed animal and a picture of their special person attached. Each class took turns enjoying special activities in the courtyard and teachers uploaded a picture of their child to Brightwheel with their stuffed animal and photo for them to share with their special person. At the end of the school day each child brought home the surprises they made for their special person. For Valentine's Day, the classrooms each had their own parties to celebrate.

In the month of March we normally would have our annual auction fundraiser. We will not be having it this year due to COVID restrictions. We will still have fun this month with the children's imaginations while we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Then, the last two weeks of the month, we will have parent teacher conferences as we prepare for Registration which will be the first week of April.

Wishing you a beautiful Spring!

Lisa Clinton

Your Church at Work

Church Council News

President's Goals for 2021

By Debra Albrecht

Goal- For 2021, I will keep Christ Lutheran Church focused on their mission, "Christ Is Alive!" I will accomplish this goal in the following ways:

At end of this year, I hope to be a catalyst for church growth. This catalyst will be done in the following way.

We will use an outside source to help us diagnosis the problem and come up with a strategic plan for change.

We will have individual members of church council set goals for this year that are in keeping with our church's mission and goals.

The church council will receive monthly tasks that will help them look at how they can best follow our mission and goals. These tasks will include research.

STEWARDSHIP Greetings from Matt Green. I look forward to serving on church council this year as chairman of stewardship. I would like to promote discussion and learning about our Time, Talents, and Treasures throughout 2021, so that during our pledge drive towards the end of the year we see that money is just a small part of stewardship. Also expect to see information regarding electronic giving from me - it's quick and easy and efficient! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this year.

Church in Society

Did you know?

COA (Christian Outreach in Action) has it's roots right here at CLC.

COA's founder, (the late) Jack Jensen was a member of this congregation. CLC has been involved with supporting the mission of COA since its founding in 1981.

COA is the only agency in Long Beach that provides hot meals to the homeless and impoverished every day of the week.

Christ Lutheran provides a hot meal/dinner for about 150 people every month that has a 5th Wednesday.

Many of you have helped prepare and serve those meals over the years. Many more of you donate food or monetary donations for those meals.

During the current Covid pandemic, CLC continues to provide monetary donations to COA, until we can resume providing meals in person, hopefully in early Autumn 2021. Thank you for all of you who donate to the COA from the Church and Society Committee.

If you'd like to learn more about COA, and other services they provide, please visit their website: coalongbeach.org

Outreach

Happy March to you, CLC Family. As a new council convened last week, new folks and new ideas came forward. We all agreed to putting out a survey to see where our strengths and weaknesses may be. We are looking forward to moving ahead as quickly as possible as things are allowed to reopen. Each committee is researching things that are working well at other churches and seeing how we can blend some of those ideas into our church. We have found there is overlap in several committees and are committed to working together to move ahead. We are still supporting our outreach partners and will continue to do so. If you are interested in joining the outreach committee, please let me know. I will keep you posted on potential new programs as we uncover them.

In Christ,
Lisa Cottrell

Youth

Hi CLC! My name is Amanda Johnson, and I am happy to be serving alongside Maggie this year as a Youth council representative. As a lifelong member of Christ Lutheran, some of my most favorite “youthful” memories were created at CLC and I am determined to bring some of that back to the children, teens, and young adults that are here! We see you, and we are working on some exciting things for 2021 and beyond!

Hi CLC!

My name is Maggie Fitzpatrick. I am excited to be on the Youth Committee this year

with Amanda. I have been a member of CLC since I was in the fourth grade. My family moved to this church specifically for its youth program. I have a lot of amazing memories growing up in the youth group at CLC. I am now looking forward to serving on Church Council and to recruiting new families and engaging our current families at CLC into our youth program.

Education

SUNDAY ED IS BACK!!!

WHEN: Starts Sunday, March 7 from 12:30-1:30 on ZOOM

TOPIC: Entering the Passion of Jesus...a guide to Holy Week

DETAILS: Amy-Jill Levine is an internationally renowned scholar and teacher. It is a wonderful way to understand the meaning behind Holy Week and she presents the information in an interesting, easy to understand, and informative way. A must for believers.

RSVP: we would appreciate it very much if you would let us know if you are interested in attending this educational series asap.

My email: deborahotterson@gmail.com

Phone: 562 533-1434 or text.

Thank you so much.

Deborah Otterson



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 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, Martha Ortiz, Mark and Degas Peters, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Debbie Reighard, Beth Schluemer, Jolene Smith, Anna Watt-Morse, Clint and Jolene Yates, 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.



- 3/1 Sean Murray**
- 3/2 Sara Benoit**
- 3/2 Derek Johnson**
- 3/3 Angie Freligh**
- 3/3 Doug Holdhusen**
- 3/5 Frances Willms**
- 3/11 Jameson Stamer**
- 3/12 Chris Caldwell**
- 3/12 Jack Rollins**
- 3/14 Brian Trost**
- 3/15 Samuel Brown**
- 3/16 Steve Howard**
- 3/19 Josh Freligh**
- 3/21 Linda Gawthorne**
- 3/22 Lynn Benner**
- 3/22 Ken Petrbock**
- 3/27 Stefan Joseph**
- 3/28 Garrett McGee**
- 3/30 Ingrid Fuelleman-Ramos**



*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.

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.

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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!

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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!!**

There is an updated Church Directory available. If you would like it emailed or mailed to you please let Kim in the office know and we'll get it out.



We had a fantastic blood drive on Valentine's day, here are the blood drive results:

*Projection/Goal: 20 pints

*Collected: 25 pints

Love when we go over goal! Your Church helped save up to 75 people that Sunday, giving hope to so many families.

We are so thankful for your continued support during these challenging times.

Best,

Lisa Love

Account Manager

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Activities for CLC members to check out.

For 55+, CSULB offers classes for seniors. Registration is \$40 for the year and then classes are \$15 each.

<https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-health-human-services/osher-lifelong-learning-institute-home>

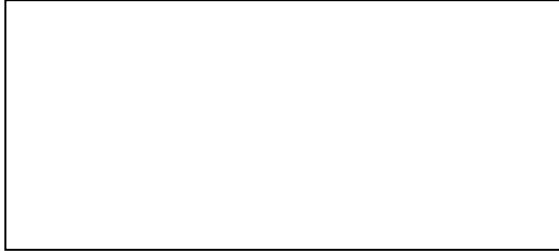


Yoga instructor Lacey Marsac offers Yoga at Wardlow Park on Mondays and Fridays at 9 AM. Fees are donation based only, but understands if people cannot donate right now. If interested, contact CLC president, Deb Albrecht at 562 715-3836.



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
March 15, 2021

Life In Christ

Is the newsletter of

Christ Lutheran Church

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