



Pastor Pam's Pennings

**April 2021
Volume 65, Issue 4**

EASTER!

He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.

These words from Matthew's gospel tell it all! As we move into the season of Easter, starting on the very first Sunday of this month, the joy of these words echo through the ages!

Jesus is alive! The horror of the cross and the desolation of the tomb could not thwart God's plan of salvation. Jesus is alive! He conquered death and the grave. He walks with us as we go through our everyday lives. He hears our every sigh and knows the deepest, darkest secrets that we try so valiantly to hide. And, Jesus loves us – as we are – imperfect, messed up, broken human beings. God's love is ours – for today and always!

As we continue through this month, drawing closer and closer to the day we can open our doors for worship once again, it's going to feel like Easter – no matter what the calendar says! It's been a hard year, and we are so very close to being through this pandemic. It's always hardest right before it's over. We get impatient and we cannot figure out why "they" are back and "we" are not. Am I just being mean? Am I being too cautious?

Perhaps I am – but you can't un-ring a bell. IF we would come back together too soon and someone got sick, or God forbid died, because they were here in worship, I would be inconsolable. I hope you would be, too! As former director of the Center for Disease Control, Dr. Tom Frieden states, "We're not done yet. Covid isn't done with us. The variants are still a risk. ... You don't declare victory in the third quarter."

Europe has its 3rd wave of outbreak happening, and spring break's infection numbers are yet to come out as I write. So, as we wait, we hear the word...soon. Very soon, if we all remain patient and stay vigilant, we will be able to gather with our protocols in place. Maybe by fall, those protocols will be able to be dropped and we can sing God's song in full voice in our space!

In the meantime, we can celebrate that Jesus' rising from the dead is the resurrection hope we cling to as we wait, wait, wait.

+ Blessings+

Pastor Pam





Hello my friends,

As we finish our journey to the cross, we can finally begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel. This proverbial “light” represents not only an end to this year of sadness, but to Jesus and the Light He brings. He is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. As I am writing this newsletter article, we are still a few days away from Holy Week. I hope you enjoy the music we have planned.

Last month, we had our first set of technical difficulties since last summer. With the new cell towers going in, they were adding noise to our dedicated channel; since we remedied the problem it has not re-occurred. If we ever have any problems and the service stream freezes like it did, we will always re-post a pristine copy (everything gets recorded on a hard drive) onto Facebook and YouTube Live! Now, if the service gets interrupted in any way and the stream ends, always look for a fresh new stream within minutes. Of course, if that is not possible (equipment, internet not working, et al.), we will continue recording the service and re-post. Also, I am reading your comments during service. If you are having problems: post a comment. I may be able to troubleshoot and others viewing will let you know if it is a common problem or not. Thank you for your patience!

I WILL see you all in church soon!

Your humble director,

Brian



Preschool News

In the month of March we normally would have our annual auction fundraiser. Since we were not able to have it this year due to COVID, we asked parents to make a tax deductible donation instead to go towards the specific purpose of replacing the existing tile in the classrooms. We also had parent teacher conferences via Zoom in March. The parents really appreciated this opportunity since they do not get to interact with the teachers on a daily basis this year. We started Registration for our upcoming Fall session early and had it ongoing for the month of March. We will now begin to register people from our waiting list in April.

April brings some excitement and hope this year. We will celebrate Easter with our celebration on Friday, April 2. We will have egg hunts by class for the children in the morning followed by an Easter hat parade for the parents to watch via Zoom. We will then close at 12:30pm and be closed Monday, April 5th in an extended celebration of Easter. As we are reminded of celebrating new life with Easter, we are also able to open things up a little bit more this month. With decreasing COVID cases, and increased vaccinations, we are able to take our 2 year old classroom back up to it's usual 14 students with 2 teachers. We are also able to bring back our outside activities; PlaySports, Webby Dance, and Funtime Gymnastics.

We will celebrate Week of the Young Child this month with a STEAM theme (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). Each day will be full of fun activities like Jello and vinegar, light and mirrors, robots, straw rockets, salt & ice creations, catapults, magnet painting, drawing on slime, building with marshmallows and more! This is always an exciting and fun week to celebrate young children.

On April 30th, we will be closed for a staff development day. Our staff will be renewing our CPR and First Aid certifications.

Wishing you a beautiful Spring!
Lisa Clinton

Your Church at Work

Church Council News

President's Report for April

By Debra Albrecht

Your church council has been busy working for you. In their reports, they will be sharing new things we will be providing for you. We have decided to use the Holy Cow! Survey so we can know how to serve you better. Please take time to do this survey so we will have that necessary information. This survey will help guide our next steps as we continue to keep Christ Alive! Watch for it in the next couple of weeks.

Stewardship

As council member for Stewardship, I thought I might share part of our Stewardship Story with you. Rebecca and I have been giving to CLC since we were first married. In the beginning, we gave because Rebecca's parents always had. I must admit that to me it was a bill much like our utilities – something we had to pay. Later, when we began to give our time on church council and in various other ways, our eyes were opened not only to what it costs to run a church, but to all the ministries and missions and

outreach our contributions are used for. Really, it was giving our Time and Talents that moved us from “having to give” to “wanting to give” and “happy to give”. CLC helped us to raise our children, introduced us to life-long friends, and provided opportunities to learn and worship and grow. The blessings we have received have far outweighed the amount of Time, Talent and Treasure we have put on the scale. I encourage you to think about why and how you contribute Time, Talent and Treasures here at CLC and elsewhere. Reach out to me if you would like share - I would love to print a few Stewardship Stories from members this year. If I don't hear from you - you might hear from me :) Thanks!!
Matt Green, Stewardship Chair

Youth

Hello CLC family!

In this month of April we welcome Spring with open arms. We have assembled fun Easter treat bags for the children of CLC and the community and plan to hand them out during communion on Easter Sunday April 4th. We anticipate connecting with preschool families, school age children and young adults as protocols allow.

Maggie Fitzpatrick & Amanda Johnson

Outreach

The Outreach committee (of which we need some more folks) is looking forward to helping with the upcoming survey that our church is rolling out in April. Holy Cow is the company we will be using, and we will all be doing a CAT survey to identify strengths and possible weaknesses in our community at CLC. Watch for information being sent to you. announcements from the pulpit and personal communications from your Council liaison. I really encourage all of you to participate in this process. The results of the survey will be instrumental in setting a path forward. All input is requested and appreciated. As we look forward to getting together in person in the near future, this could be a game changer!!

Also, we (Connections, Youth, Church in Society), are working on some fun ideas for Easter. Start making some paper flowers of any kind to attach to a large cross we hope to hang/stand outside of church so passersby will see and enjoy. We hope to include the preschool in this as well. More info will be coming to you on this soon. We also want to fill some Easter bags for all kids who come by at Easter from both the preschool and our congregation and neighborhood Please be sure to become part of the Facebook group so we have even more ways of getting news to you all. It is a fun forum with personal tidbits, cartoons, topical postings, and a great way to keep in touch! Take care, see you soon! Lisa Cottrell

Connections

Due to CLC remaining closed per Covid restrictions, there hasn't been any activity or event planning thus far. As there seems to be light at the end of this long tunnel, we can begin to dream about some socially distanced activities scheduled as the weather gets warmer and more reliable. Kim Croes, Chair

Church in Society

The Church and Society committee has been accepting financial donations over the past few months for various ministries that our church supports: COA (Christian Outreach in Action), LSS (Lutheran Social Services), Habitat for Humanity, Miracle Ranch, and Fe Y Esperanza. We've collected a total of \$2,500. Thank you so much for your generosity!! Our focus for giving for April will be Bright Stars Bethlehem which is a US based non-profit organization that promotes peace and justice in Palestine. Pastor Pam will be providing us with more information about this organization during Sunday worship.

Habitat for Humanity broke ground in December for the first 10 homes in the Washington Neighborhood build at 14th and Pine in Long Beach. They have since completed the foundations and have started the framing process. Drive by for a look at this amazing project. No outside volunteers are allowed on site yet. Hopefully soon!!
Claudia Fitzpatrick & Shannon



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, Lisa Bishop, John Byron, Clara & John Caldwell, Charlie and David Corm, Mary and Max 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, 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.



4/21 Linda and Gary Zimmerman

4/25 Ruth and Lowell Benner



4/1 Brianna Peralta

4/3 Dave Challis

4/3 Amanda Johnson

4/3 Jillian Rollins

4/9 Phyllis Kay

4/9 Matthew Nelson

4/10 Laurie Ennen

4/14 Shannon Howard

4/17 Stephanie Petrbock

4/18 John Ennen

4/27 Lisa Cottrell

4/28 Paislee Treat

4/30 Tricia Latiolait

4/30 Erin Lowther

4/30 Stephanie Murray



*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.

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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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!
- Communion @ 10:30am; bring your flower to add to the cross in the courtyard

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

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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 **\$102.09** from just **15** households for Dec., Jan., and Feb.



We also receive contributions from **Amazon Smile** if you designate Christ Lutheran as the charity of choice for eligible purchases. We have received **\$424.31 in total**. Thanks so much!



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 received **\$1,237.50 in 2020** and gifts are already coming in

for 2021. Thank you to church members who have selected CLC to receive these charitable gifts. Ask your Thrivent rep for details.

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.

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.

Hi there,

This isn't the first time I've reached out to you and other members of this community to thank you for bringing so much light in dark times — and it most certainly won't be the last. You are at the heart of our mission and a lifeline for the families in greater Los Angeles and beyond in need of decent, affordable housing.

Today I want to thank you for embodying three things the world needs most right now: empathy, kindness, and community.

Here's just one example of how powerful this community can be and what an empowering force your kindness has been these last several months.

Before purchasing a home through Habitat, Eligio and his wife, Liliana, saw their rent steadily climb for the cramped apartment where they were raising their two young boys. They worried constantly about providing a stable home where the boys were free to play and they were free from the worry of being priced out of the area. Since moving into their Habitat home, that worry has been lifted permanently. And now, in the midst of a pandemic, that relief has transformed into an unimaginable blessing. Eligio's work with the postal service and Liliana's work as a cashier provide the essential services we all rely on, and they rest easy with a safe home that they and their sons can count on. Their stable, affordable mortgage means that they have the resilience to weather lean economic times like this.

Thank you for embodying empathy, community, and kindness. Let's keep it going as we continue to heal together and look ahead to building a better future.

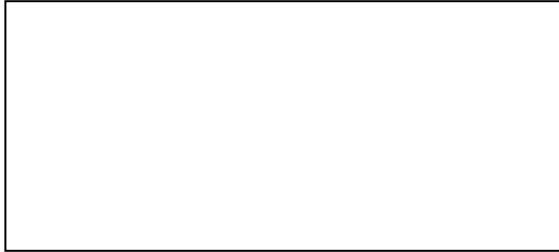
In gratitude and service,

Jonathan T.M. Reckford
President & CEO
Habitat for Humanity International



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
April 15, 2021

Life In Christ

Is the newsletter of

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