



Pastor Pam's Pennings

**May 2021
Volume 65, Issue 5**

John V. Clark, President/Partner of The James Company writes: "I have noticed throughout the pandemic that one word consistently comes up in conversations, social media posts, newsletters, sermons, school billboards, etc. **The word is resilience.**

The word has captured my attention and made me think about what it means for me. What is resilience in my life, relationships, family, work, in a pandemic, and yes, in my faith? The world has changed and is going to change more. The more I have thought about this reality I have decided that resilience is our best response.

It's not about planning things that we think will turn out the way we expect. Trying for "bulletproof" is too rigid and requires perfect knowledge of the future. Resilience is a commitment to a strategy, an attitude, and a system that works even when things don't turn out the way we planned. *Especially* then.

Instead of planning for the best case scenario, we make the effort to consider how our lives and faith thrive when the best case doesn't happen. Because that's far more likely. My dad was in the Navy during World War II. As a sailor he would always say that fixing on a point on the horizon is a good way to survive a storm.

But for most of us, faith, flexibility, community, and a sense of possibility is a good way to survive a storm. That doesn't make it easier, but it's likely a *resilient* path forward."

Yes and amen. And, it is hard to be resilient when we feel like we are in a worst case scenario. I was feeling very sorry for myself. And then, I read this prayer by Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was killed while presiding at worship on March 24, 1980.

It helps now and then to step back and take a long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime

only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives include everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing this. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen.

Blessed Easter! May we do what we can and feel the work is not in vain! We are prophets of a future not our own!

Spring Congregation Meeting

See page 11 for Zoom link and information.

Sunday, May 16 at 12:30pm

Please plan to participate..



Hello my friends,

Not much to report this month—as we wait to see what steps we take next. I cannot believe it has been a whole year since we started streaming with the new equipment. I am already finding some wear and tear and I'm beginning to replace some of the cables. I am in the midst of transitioning over to a new video card for camera one because it is constantly giving us problems; camera two is usually fine.

But enough tech talk!

I am watching the comments on Sunday morning. If there is a problem, mention it in the comments and I'll see what I can do. Thank you for your patience!

I WILL see you all in church soon!

Your humble director,

Brian

Please let us know if you have a member of your household that is receiving a college or post graduate degree this spring, please contact Kim in the church office for a grad bio form. We want to recognize all grads in the June Newsletter.



Preschool News

In April we celebrated Week Of the Young Child. We had fun activities each day to celebrate children and all the wonders they bring to us. Our theme was STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math). We had a documentation board for each daily theme showing how children learn about that subject through play. On Friday, we had displays of children's artwork and a "grab & go" parent appreciation breakfast.



Since parents' participation has been limited this year, we asked them to build a robot at home with their child and bring it in on Technology day. We did a Robot Showcase Zoom for everyone to get to see all of the different robot creations.

On Friday, we asked parents to donate a box of cereal. We lined them all up in a domino style maze and the children all watched as they fell. After, we donated the cereal to the Long Beach Rescue Mission. This is always a wonderful, fun-filled week!



On Friday, April 2nd, we had our Easter celebration. Each class had an Easter Egg hunt on the yard. Then we had an Easter hat parade the parents could watch via Zoom. During the parade, the children put the flowers they made on the cross.

We closed on Friday, April 30th for a staff development day. Our staff was able to renew our CPR & First Aid certification.

The first week of May we will have teacher appreciation week. On May 7th we will celebrate the blessing of mothers with Moms and Muffins. May 12 & 13, we will have Elks Vision screening come in to test the children's eyes.

Blessings for a beautiful month!

Lisa Clinton

Your Church at Work

Church Council News

President's Report for May

By Debra Albrecht

This song popped into my head as I started to write this newsletter article:

“This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made,
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

Oh this is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it,

Oh this is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.” (“Scripture Song Medley” by Keith Green)

Last month I had many reasons to rejoice! Jesus is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Also, I am thankful for all the people who made this Easter special. The music was beautiful and uplifting. My grandsons loved making flowers for the cross and the special Easter gift bag! Pastor Pam continues to lift my spirit with her inspirational sermons. Thank you to all who helped beautifully decorate the church.

Your church council has been very busy coming up with new ideas and ways to meet your needs. One such idea was the CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) from Holy COW. Thank you for giving your honest feedback so that we can better serve God and you!

When you look for things to rejoice about, you will start to see it everywhere! Continue to rejoice every day that the Lord has made!



Stewardship

Did you know our church offers electronic giving? Our eGiving options are convenient alternatives to cash and checks, which can be easily forgotten. But that is not the only reason to consider eGiving for one-time gifts or recurring donations. Here are a few other benefits:

Electronic giving is simple and easy. You can set up giving on the same schedule as you normally write a check.

It is safe and secure. Gifts made electronically are sent directly to our church bank account, and our provider ensures your personal information remains secure.

Never worry about forgetting your checkbook or mailing your donation. Your gifts are received even if you can't make it to church or you forget to put them in the mail.

You can choose how your donations are designated just like using our giving envelopes.

It gives our church stability. By setting up recurring donations, you enable us to maintain the finances necessary to continue our missions and plan for the future.

It streamlines the difficult job our counters have each week accounting for cash and checks and making deposits.

Many of our members are already using eGiving as an alternative to writing a check. Please contact Matt Green and we can get you set up in a matter of minutes. Thank you for considering this quick and easy way to make donations.

Matt Green

Youth

Hello CLC,

We hope that you took the opportunity to fill out the CAT Survey as this will guide our efforts in moving forward for the youth here at Christ Lutheran.

We are looking ahead to this summer and are putting the call out to anyone interested in volunteering (in any capacity that feels safest to you) for a 2021 in person Vacation Bible School! We are in the process of forming a VBS Committee and would love to have you!

Amanda will host a Zoom VBS Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30pm.

Maggie Fitzpatrick & Amanda Johnson

Outreach

I continue to meet with other committees to pool our resources and gather new ideas. The Easter Cross was terrific and a good outside visual that God is alive and well at Christ Lutheran. We also discussed the opportunities that happen monthly for you to get involved with in ways that fit your current means. I believe COA is next and you can find information in this newsletter how to help. We also spent some time talking about how we can begin to transition into times and spaces where we can safely meet face to face. Many of us are feeling that need and trying to find ways to get that done is a challenge. We discussed a coffee time after the service and the some on the council felt we were a month too early with the idea. We will continue to move forward on these ideas. More input is helpful. Hopefully you all took the CAT survey and that will also help shape the decisions for the near future. Stay safe and let me know if you have ideas and suggestions as we are looking forward to seeing each other again!

Blessings, Lisa Cottrell

Church in Society

Thank you for your generous donations to Bright Stars Bethlehem and Joanie's Purse during the month of April. Our donation focus for May will be Miracle Ranch.

The "Raise the Roof" fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity will be on Sunday, October 17, 2021 from 2:00-5:00 at The Wine Crush in Long Beach. If you're interested in becoming a sponsor for this event, or know of a business that would be interested, please contact Claudia Fitzpatrick.

Claudia Fitzpatrick & Shannon Howard

50 Quilts Distributed 'Round the Town in April

Written by Ron Nelson

Christ Lutheran Cover Girls & Guys made over 50 quilts in recent months that have been taken for local groups to give the poor. Among them in Long Beach are: Christian Outreach in Action, Lutheran Social Services, Lydia House, New Life Beginnings, and Long Beach Rescue Mission, plus WE Care in Los Alamitos/Orange County. While Winter is over, Spring brings some cool times, as well!

Christ Lutheran has been quilting for generations! Harriet Probst says, "It is a great place to spend time having fun working with lots of nice people". Currently, Harriette, Rich, Sue, Robin, Bev, and Angie are regulars. We

miss Carol Price, who was a regular for so many years but has moved away.

Come join us and there are several ways you can help and learn! It is more than sewing! 9 AM to 11 AM Tuesday mornings most every week in the Church Social Hall, or you do some work at home! Also, there is no reason that an additional group couldn't organize to gather on an evening during the week or even a Saturday morning. For more information call anyone of us!

Years ago, one of our former pastors wrote this poem:

"They gather every Tuesday, come rain or shine,
Someone gets here early (8 AM)...at least by nine,
They cut and they sew, they talk and they pray,
they bring a little sunshine into everyone's day,
In a world so distress, torn by hunger, war and guilt,
they think of those in need, and WOW can they quilt,
...they serve the Lord with gladness and live by Jesus' truth!
They are our Cover Girls who make a joyful noise, and when the fellows come to help, we call them "Cover Guys!"



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, 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, Pam Mitchell, Ian Ollie, Martha Ortiz, Mark and Degas Peters, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Debbie Reighard, Beth Schluemer, Bob Schlaf, 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.



5/7 Kristina and Rob Randig

5/21 Renu and Marvin Moon



5/2 Rob McGee

5/4 Alex Alfonso

5/6 Jesse Knight

5/8 Katelyn Ramos

5/9 Carina Colvin

5/10 Jessica Stamer

5/11 Ron Nelson

5/12 Chris Hunter

5/16 Carol Price

5/18 Rich Oelschlaeger

5/23 Elisabeth Jenkins

5/23 Karin Lee

5/24 Lauren Martin

5/26 Joaquin Alfonso

5/27 Ivan Brown

5/28 Max Johnson

5/31 Scott Moon



*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.

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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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!!

We are asking your help to make sure that our prayer lists are up to date. Please take a moment to review both the general list and the military service list and if we need to remove any names, for any reason, please let the office know. Thanks so much.

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.

Topic: Congregation Meeting

Time: May 16, 2021 12:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83684650616?pwd=SE53U2VFSGdlcjZOdWt5dEszQ3d2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 836 8465 0616

Passcode: 265461

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,83684650616#,,,,*265461# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,83684650616#,,,,*265461# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

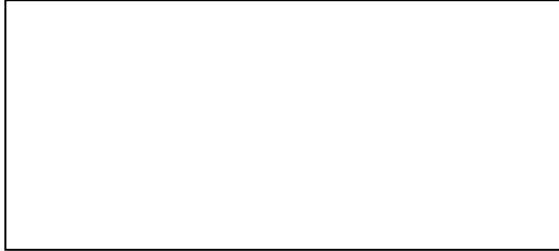
Meeting ID: 836 8465 0616

Passcode: 265461

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kFuEttdvS>

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.

JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
May 15, 2021

Life In Christ

Is the newsletter of

Christ Lutheran Church

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