



Pastor Pam's Pennings

June 2021
Volume 65, Issue 6

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease. Genesis 8:22

It may sound funny to some of you, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the May gray this year. Maybe it's because, for the first time since we've moved into our condo, I've not been rushing to the office each weekday and Sunday morning. Last year, I was too much in a panic due to the rising number of COVID cases, and the subsequent illness, hospitalizations, and deaths that we heard each night on the news to enjoy this season. This year I find myself enjoying the wakening sunshine. I'm glad for these moments of awareness and I'm grateful for the cool, cloudy mornings for there is one thing we know...

...summer is coming! As the May gray moves into June gloom, and then into the heat of July, August, September and October, these cool, cloudy mornings will soon become yet another memory – that we may or may not even remember as the year marches on.

The text from Genesis reminds me that this eternal cycle "*shall not cease.*" Yet, I am ever more aware that we humans are having a devastating effect on earth. It concerns me that our grandchildren will pay a very high price for our less than mindful use of our planet's water, air, and land. I keep remembering the photo astronaut, William Anders took of our planet on Christmas Eve when he was on the Apollo 8 space mission that he entitled, *Earthrise*. Just look at

our planet! It is so startlingly beautiful set against the blackness of space. We only have this planet to live on – every plant, animal, and human claims this “blue marble” as *home*. Look! There are no national borders in space! Each of us is responsible for its welfare and its wellbeing!



We have been given a gift this last year; a gift of time. Time to think, and pray. A time to dream and to fret. A time to cry and to be afraid. I hope that as we move into being back to our “new normal,” we won’t forget the lessons we have learned and are still learning as we process what it means to live through a pandemic. One thing is sure: ***GOD IS WITH US!***

Pastor Pam



Hello my friends,

I cannot express how wonderful it felt seeing you all in our sanctuary once again. It has been a long time coming. Even if we reach “green” status by mid-June, we plan to keep having two services throughout the summer. I hope to be back to one service in the Fall because I prefer having everyone worship together weekly; my past church experiences with multiple services were not pleasant—it not only drains resources but keeps some members apart from one another.



For the summer, we will continue to live-stream at the 8:30 service; for those of you who find this obtrusive please consider attending the 10:30 service instead—this is an important and permanent part of our worship experience moving forward.

For the fall, unless we have some COVID related set-back, I plan to have both the choir and hand bells back together again as an integral part of weekly worship.

I am so excited to have you all back. WELCOME HOME!!!!

Your humble director,
Brian



Preschool News



We kicked off the first week of May with Teacher Appreciation Week. Our parents brought in special treats/presents each day for the staff. It is an honor and privilege to care for their children and we are blessed to have such generous and supportive families at CLP!



At the end of the week, we celebrated Mother's Day with our Moms & Muffins event. Moms were able to reserve a table outside to sit with their child and play tic tac toe, play with play dough, and have their child make a macaroni necklace for them. They were then able to take a muffin, piece of fruit and water to-go. Our parents have been truly appreciative of all of our extra efforts to adapt our special activities in order to still be able to have them this year despite COVID protocols.

May 12 & 13, we were able to offer free vision screenings through the Elks Club. This is a great resource that allows us to catch potential vision issues early on.



In June, we will wrap up our school year. We will celebrate fathers with Dads & Donuts offering the same outdoor tables with a reservation like we did for Moms & Muffins. We will end our school year on Wednesday, June 23rd. Each class will have individual, end of year parties. The staff will put together a slide show/video of the classes singing, including class pictures as well as individual pictures for the parents to watch with their children at home. We will have an in person graduation at 11am for our 16 students going on to Kindergarten. Each student will be allowed to bring 2 guests. School will close at 12:30pm. We will be closed for staff work days to prep for summer on Thursday and Friday, June 24 & 25. Our summer session will begin on Monday, June 8. Our theme will be "Sense"-Sational Summer.



Blessings for a beautiful month!
Lisa Clinton

Your Church at Work

Church Council News

President's Report for June

By Debra Albrecht

Thank you so much for your participation in the CAT survey!! Christ Lutheran had 85% of you participating. Our church received a ton of information that will guide your church council in developing a strategic plan. Since there is so much information, the executive committee is trying to streamline it into a manageable amount. The church council will receive it at our June church council meeting. Pastor Pam will present the information between the two church services after 8:30 in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 27. Please mark your calendars! Again, thank you so much for taking the survey and giving us so much valuable information!



Stewardship

Claudia Fitzpatrick-Guest

Time, Talents and Treasure

When I think of my time, talents, and treasure, I think of my parents. They are the ones who encouraged me from a very young age to play musical

instruments, join groups, volunteer, and learn the value of hard work to earn money. They paid for music lessons, drove me to rehearsals and attended concerts and paid for summer music camp. My mother led my Camp Fire group for 10 years. That's where I learned to be a member of a group and donate volunteer hours in different settings. My parents were both Elementary School educators. Watching their dedication to teaching inspired me to become a teacher myself. My parents both passed away this past year, each at the age of 93. I'm lucky to have had their wise counsel and example for so many years. Being able to use my time, talents and treasure at Christ Lutheran is something that I hope my parents would be proud of me for. I'm happy that I get to play my cello, sing, volunteer for VBS, serve on the Pre-School board and Church and Society, serve meals at COA, and build houses for Habitat for Humanity.

Connections

Summer days with warm weather and sunny skies is the perfect time to have our campus reopen for worship and fellowship! Now that we are getting used to the process of worshipping in person, we'll be able to reintroduce our coffee hour. We're working on the safest way to do this, so keep an eye out for coffee and sweet treats to be coming soon.

Kim Croes

Youth

Hello CLC,

Thank you to those members who jumped on the VBS Zoom meetings in May. We have decided that we can offer an abbreviated VBS experience this summer. ***Under God's Big Tent*** will happen for three days, July 12-14 from 9am-12pm. Please watch for opportunities to support the people who will be working to provide this fun experience for our church and community kids.

Young Adults (high school grads and up)
SAVE THE DATE: Friday, June 27th at 6:30pm *Event details to follow

Maggie Fitzpatrick & Amanda Johnson

Outreach

As things begin opening Outreach and Connections will continue to work with the other committees to find ways to safely be together...i.e. the coffee cart. We are working with the Education committee on a tutoring idea to pair neighborhood kids with congregation folks for tutoring. So happy to see everyone there on Sunday and happy to be back in church.

Blessings, Lisa Cottrell





**Members at Home or
in Care Centers:** Justin

Bartlow, Judy Haenn, Ione Marchael, Frances Willms.

Those struggling with illness or other concerns: Daniel Howard, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Gary & 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 and Max Croes, John Daly, Becky Dave, Tamra Fitzgerald, Brechin Flournoy, Alberta Gray, Cindy Gray, Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoenig, Ben Horner, Bill and Teria Horner, Kylie & Crystal Huber, JoDee Irwin, Victoria Johnson, Doris Jung, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Ian Ollie, Barb Ontiveros, Bob Randig, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Debbie Reighard, Bob Schlaf, 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.



6/12 Sue and Roger Bredenkamp
6/12 Jenn and Scott Ostergren
6/21 Sarah and Justin Swagler
6/25 Chris and Rick Panos



6/1 Mia Colvin
6/3 Maggie Fitzpatrick
6/4 Kristina Randig
6/4 Kit Snider
6/4 Caleb Swagler
6/4 Frances Swagler
6/7 Joy Bright
6/8 Kim Croes
6/10 Roger Halvorson
6/14 Michael Elliott
6/16 Kai Flournoy
6/17 Kris Alfonso
6/17 Parker Treat
6/20 Lowell Benner
6/22 Faith Timney
6/25 Cathy Westwood
6/27 Rick McGee
6/28 Teresa Lowther
6/29 Casey Burkard
6/30 Laura Innes



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.

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 **\$83.95** from just **16** households for March and April.



We also receive contributions from **Amazon Smile** if you designate Christ Lutheran as the charity of choice for eligible purchases. We have received **\$47.54** so far this year. 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 **\$1460.00 so far in 2021**. Thank you to

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

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.



Samantha McGee, daughter of Karen and Rick McGee and granddaughter of Linda McGee, is graduating from Cypress High School this year. The last year and a half of Samantha's high school career was experienced on line and by all accounts, she did amazingly well in this alternate academic world. Her family is so proud of her commitment to school and family responsibilities during this unique time in her life. While focusing on classes and receiving her "Career Path" Stole for graduation, Samantha also gave great care to keeping loved ones safe from the potential threats of the Covid 19 virus by steadfastly quarantining within her close family. We imagine

she is looking forward to being with friends to celebrate this milestone as well as attending Fullerton College in the fall.

Congratulations Samantha!



**American
Red Cross**

Your Partnership Makes a Difference

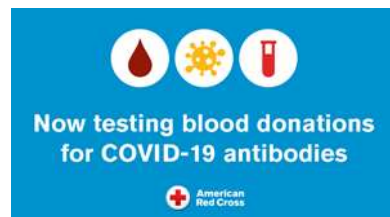
Meet the Johnsons | Blood Recipient and Volunteer

Emily has a very personal reason for hosting blood drives – she credits blood with helping save her mom's life.

When Emily was just 2 years old her mother, Leslie Johnson, was in a farming accident that left her with broken bones including a shattered pelvis in five places, her right leg was severely injured and detached from her spine, a severed artery in her abdomen and head trauma. The injuries caused massive bleeding and she received platelets while being airlifted to the hospital. Leslie underwent surgery that same day to repair the severed artery and head trauma. She received nine units of blood in the first 24 hours. She spent the next six days in an induced coma and received additional units of blood.



“My mom is my inspiration and I'm grateful she is alive,” said Emily Johnson. “If blood had not been available when she needed it, she might not be here today – I might not have had my mom growing up. It's my honor to be able to promote blood donation and help pay it forward to others in need.”



Sign up to donate blood
Two opportunities here at CLC:
Sunday, June 27 830am-230pm
Sunday, July 18 830am-230pm
Go to redcrossblood.org Sponsor code: CLCLB

JUNE is Christian Outreach in Action (COA) Special Appeal--

Whenever there is a FIFTH WEDNESDAY in a month, Christ Lutheran has been providing the dinners for the community at COA in downtown Long Beach (515 E. Third Street, just West of Atlantic Avenue). Many of us have given food, money and volunteered to serve the meals. We know the kitchen!



Since Covid, we have been taking a special offering for the purchase and distribution of food for the dinners.

In 2021, there are 4 "5th Wednesdays" including JUNE 30th! COA will NOT be needing us to "serve" them at this time. BUT your special gifts before the last Sunday in June will enable COA to purchase the food to "hand out" those dinners at their door!!

COA was originally established at Christ Lutheran to take surplus food and USDA powdered milk and cheese to poor communities and orphanages in Baja California (Tijuana to Ensenada and back up to the border in Tecate.) Many of our members and youth went on these trips to help unload the truck and meet the people.

COA soon "took over" an old Methodist Church downtown and began providing community services-counseling, food, and clothes. Several of our members have worked in this ministry over the years!

READ the COA story @COAlongbeach.org.

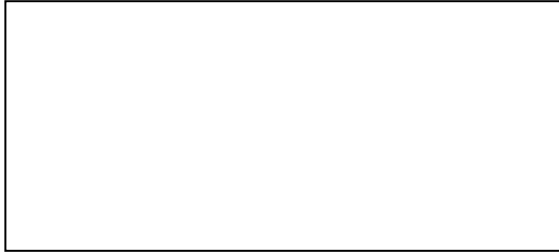
In recent years, supporters of COA opened "CLARK & ATHERTON Mercantile" located at 1772 Clark Ave. Long Beach open daily 11 - 5 and 11 - 4 Sundays. Your purchases of good stuff will support COA!



Written by Ron Nelson

Christ Lutheran Church
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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.

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
June 15, 2021

Life In Christ

Is the newsletter of

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