



Pastor Pam's Pennings

August 2021
Volume 65, Issue 8

In August 1972, Neal Diamond recorded a live album at the Greek Theater in Los Angeles that was entitled *Hot August Night*. He then went on to record 4 sequels to that album! As a teenager, I purchased the first album, listened to the music and sweltered in Indiana's heat and humidity. One of my favorite lines was when Neal responded to the people who were watching the concert from the trees outside the venue. He said, "God bless you, tree people! I'm singing for you, too!" Neal knew his songs reached beyond the confines of the Greek!

How far do you suppose the outreach work of our community goes? We know we reach to Columbia, as we have faithfully supported Linda Gawthorne's ministry there for fifty years! We reached into Africa when we were instrumental in the ELCA Malaria Initiative. Through our quilting ministry, our quilts have gone into global places. Our support of Lutheran Maritime Ministry reaches sailors from all ports of call.

How far in our community does the outreach work from Christ Lutheran go? Christian Outreach in Action, Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Social Services, Long Beach State Food Pantry, New Life Beginnings are **organizations** we support with joy and passion. And now we have a new opportunity for us to reach young people who are being bullied because of who they are. California Families in Focus will be having a fundraising event on our campus that we get to participate in as well! **Mark your calendars now for Saturday, August 14!** We are trying to help CFF raise enough funds to sponsor a magazine cover shoot for the teens who will be showing off their creations at the *I Matter 2* fashion show in September. Please say YES when Doug or DJ ask you to help! Please come to this fundraiser and be as amazingly generous as you always are!

The Congregation Council will be meeting on August 21 to begin the strategic planning process that comes from the CAT Survey results. Speaking of the CAT Survey, another opportunity to see the CAT Survey results is going to be **Sunday, August 1 @ 9:30** in the Conference Room and on Zoom. Hopefully, this hybrid meeting with slides created by Rebecca and Bryce will be easier to read and understand.

Try to stay cool in this hot August heat!

Pastor Pam



Hello my friends,

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

—Jeremiah 29:11

This passage from Jeremiah has always been one of my favorites...and a constant message of reassurance and hope when things in my life go wrong. Through this passage, I have come to realize that things going wrong are sometimes just things going in a different direction than originally planned. You know all the metaphors and sayings by now: “when you are given lemons, make lemonade” or my favorite: “When God closes a door, God opens a window” et al. Well, in my case, at times it seems that God has locked up all the doors, boarded up all the windows, and there is no attic or basement. So, how do I get out of the house? I’ve been lucky so far. I’ve always found a way out of the house. I don’t know what metaphorical “house” each of you have but taking comfort in the words of Jeremiah usually is a good place to start.

Unless the virus numbers change for the worse, we will continue with two services until Rally Sunday. We are slowly converting to in-service Communion for both services. Please continue to wear your masks while inside.

HANDBELLS: August 11th will be the last night of summer handbells; we will start back up again with Fall rehearsals on Thursday September 9th @6:00.

CHOIR: Thursday, September 9th @7:15 we will start back with Fall Choir rehearsals. To be safe, we will begin the season rehearsing in the Social Hall with the doors open and social distancing (because we cannot sing with masks on). How we tackle this dilemma in church is still a work in progress.

Once again, it is so great to see everyone in church each week but please do not let your guard down and keep safe.

Your humble director,

Brian



Preschool News

Our summer session began on Monday, June 2nd. We were able to gradually start lifting our COVID protocols and parents are now allowed to drop children off at their classroom doors. Everyone is very excited to begin to get a little closer to our "normal" CLP operations.

Our theme is *"Sense"- Sational Summer*. Each week we have been exploring each of the 5 senses including: *Imagination Station, Colors of the Rainbow, Kitchen Chemistry, Water Water Everywhere, Sensational Sounds, Messy Mixtures and Experiments, Ooey Gooey, and Budding Builders*.

We were able to invite some special visitors back on campus this summer and it was a lot of fun. Some of the special visitors were *Rhythm Child Drums, Mad Science, Foam Party & Snow Cones, and Bounce House*.

To celebrate the 4th of July, the children decorated their bikes at home and brought them to school to have a parade. We had a BBQ lunch on the playground following the parade. We were able to participate with the church to have VBS and it was a so much fun. The children loved the circus theme and "Bubbles" the clown was amazing. With a few adjustments, we have also continued to have water days once a week. With the heat of the summer, this is always a favorite day for the children. We also had our bike-a-thon to raise money for classroom supplies and toys for the new school year.

We are full for fall with a waiting list. As of now, we are hoping to be able to go back to our normal operating hours of 7am-6pm and continue to loosen our COVID policies. Our last day of summer will be on Friday, August 20th. We will be closed the following week for our staff work week to get everything cleaned and prepped for fall. During that time we will be getting new flooring in all of the preschool classrooms as well as the lounge. Our Fall session will begin on Monday, August 30th.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!
 Lisa Clinton

Your Church at Work

Church Council News

President's Report for June

By Debra Albrecht

First, I want to thank all the people that helped with Vacation Bible School this year. My grandsons loved it!!! Thank you to Amanda Johnson for getting us organized. My grandsons and I have cute, jiggly songs in our heads that Rebecca Green lead. Thank you to Kim Croes for decorating and finding supplies for us all. Her craft ideas were a big hit with all the children. My grandsons loved acting out Bible stories and getting a chef's hat from Pastor Pam. Also, thank you to Chris and Cheryl Hunter for counting the offering and for helping with the setup for the picnic. Thank you to Kathy Klute Nelson and Pam Croes for being the teachers that lead them from activity to activity. Amazing photos and videos were taken by Kathy Klute Nelson that created a record and treasure for the families of the children and the church. I enjoyed leading science-based activities for the children.

On Sunday, August 1, Rebecca Green and Bryce Bonilla-Haenn will give the CAT results again. Thank you for your strong interest in wanting to really understand them. This month, your church council will use those results to begin writing a strategic plan on Saturday, August 21. Already, I have seen many new things happening at our church. The Youth Committee planned a young adult painting party. D'Jesus Trujillo is having a fundraiser here at Christ Lutheran Church to help young people in our community. Please save Saturday, August 14 to attend this fundraiser at our church.

Stewardship

When Pat Barnett was asked if she would like to share about why she supports Christ Lutheran with her Time, Talents and Treasures, this was her response:

“Utilizing my Time, Talents, and Treasures all made me feel a real part of this church. I felt ‘needed’ and was happy to share my *Time* to meet on Saturday mornings to spruce up the pews, take care of items on the altar, refill candles, etc. I ‘enjoyed’ using my *Talent* for speaking as I read passages from the Bible at the Lectern. I also felt “thankful” that I could share a bit of my *Treasures* to help with some of the monetary needs to help keep a thriving church viable.

These three ‘T’s’ helped me really feel the stake I had in making this church home also my home as a member of this lovely, supportive family.

Very sincerely,
Pat Barnett”

(THANK YOU PAT!)

Connections

We are offering coffee and treats on the front patio now and it is wonderful to spend some time out there visiting with friends. We'll soon pass around sign up sheets for coffee cart help. Watch for details about the fundraiser being held here in our social Hall. Entertainment, appetizers and a silent auction to benefit young people who are survivors of bullying and suicide.



Members at Home or in

Care Centers: Justin Bartlow, Judy Haenn, Ione Marchael, Carol Price, 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, Cheryl, Marilyn Armstrong, Zach Burkard, 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, DJ Koenen, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Shirley Latner, Barb Ontiveros, the Otterson family, Mike Rainey, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Debbie Reighard, Bob Schlaf, Beth Schluemer, Casey and Mark 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.



8/2 Shannon and Steve Howard
8/6 Tracy and Gary Burkard
8/7 Robin and Dave Black
8/9 Shannon and Matt Timney
8/20 Sheryl and Chris Hunter
8/22 Kris and Alex Alfonso



8/2 Eldre Larsen
8/5 Sean Smith
8/6 Aiden Jenkins
8/7 Nick Flournoy
8/9 Meghan Randig
8/9 Grant Swagler
8/9 Shannon Timney
8/14 Scott Ostergren
8/15 Bryce Bonilla-Haenn
8/15 Elise Joubert-Honacki
8/16 Tracy Burkard
8/16 Ione Marchael
8/18 Gale Musselman
8/23 Kristi Eagle Horse
8/24 Brad Croes
8/24 Ben Koch
8/25 Don Westerhoff
8/26 Gary Burkard
8/31 Brandon Nieves



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.

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 **\$84.47** from just **15** households for

March through May.



We also receive contributions from **Amazon Smile** if you designate Christ Lutheran as the charity of choice for eligible purchases. We have received **\$469.05** since we began participating in this program. 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!!**



A message from the Red Cross:



Thank you for showing your support of the community by sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive program at Christ Lutheran Church. The need for blood is constant and your efforts help ensure a safe and stable blood supply is available for people in need, especially during this critical time.

Our blood drive results are below. Feel free to share this information with all the amazing donors who donated, along with my heartfelt thanks!

Christ Lutheran Church

Presenting Donors : 24

Scheduled Donors : 28

Deferrals: 1

Goal to Collect: 20

Units Collected: 27 (4 Power Red donors)

Up to 81 lives saved!

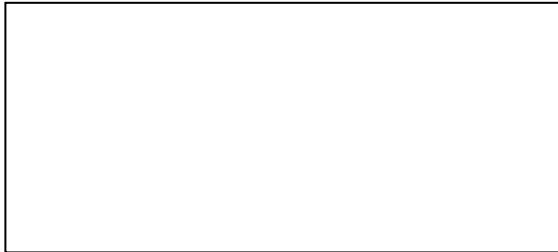
Percent of Goal: 135%

Every donation saves up to 3 lives! Examples of the types of people helped by blood donors can be found on our website at redcrossblood.org.

Thank you for all of your help in ensuring our blood drive program was such a great success! We exceeded our blood drive goal by **135%** and, most importantly, helped save up to **81 lives!**

**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.

**August NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
August 15**

Life In Christ
Is the newsletter of

**Christ Lutheran Church
6500 Stearns Street
Long Beach, CA 90815-3497
562.598.2433**

Preschool 562.594.6117

www.hristlutheranlb.com

[email:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com)

Please join us for Sunday Worship
830am or 1030am



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