



**Pastor Pam's Pennings**

**December 2021  
Volume 65, Issue 12**

*This is no time for a child to be born,  
With the earth betrayed by war & hate  
And a comet slashing the sky to warn  
That time runs out & the sun burns late.*

*That was no time for a child to be born,  
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;  
Honor & truth were trampled to scorn—  
Yet here did the Savior make His home.*

*When is the time for love to be born?  
The inn is full on the planet earth,  
And by a comet the sky is torn—  
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.*

**— Madeleine L'Engle, *The Risk of Birth***

Always each December we gather as people of faith and gaze, once again, into the manger to see the miracle of God-in-the-flesh, sneaking a peek at baby Jesus. Some of my all-time favorite hymns were written about this moment like: *What Child is This? Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, and It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*, and too many more to mention.

It's such an unholy beginning for the savior of the world – born with the animals as midwives amidst their smelly feculence. Yet, picturing in my mind's eye the less than reputable shepherds kneeling in homage, with Joseph scurrying about comforting this new mother and her child, always makes me smile and warms my heart.

We will have the opportunity to join as God's family for three days in a row in worship this year. Friday night, Christmas Eve worship will be at 5 (family oriented worship) and 10pm (candlelight service), Saturday, Christmas Morning at 10am (a musical re-telling of the Christmas story), and Sunday the First Sunday of Christmas at 9:30am (with lessons and carols).

After all we have been through these last two years, with all of the unrest, mistrust, illness and death isn't it a joyful, hope-filled experience to see this tiny baby, lying in a manger. Love. God's love. God's love enfleshed!

Merry Christmas!

*Pastor Pam*





## Greetings!

As we wind down the year, we enter the Advent season for the first time in two years in-person. Although it has been only a few weeks since we have all been back at one service, it is hard to believe it has been almost a half year since we have been back together...for this time last year we were all still at home.

Reformation Sunday was wonderful on so many levels. I thank and appreciate everyone who helped make that Sunday go smoothly. November was equally moving with All Saint's Sunday and Christ the King/Stewardship Sunday. Thank you all who helped in making our first month back together special. A Special Thanks to our music team for working hard in rehearsals in preparation for these services.

December will begin with our church sponsored craft faire on the 4<sup>th</sup> as we kick off Advent season. We will bring back the two Christmas Eve services this year:

5:00—Family Contemporary Service; and the 10:00—Traditional Service with Organ, Choir and Hand Bells. Our music team is already hard at work!

Please consider coming to church on Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup> (time TBD) to help decorate the church for the season.

Once again, thank you for your time, talents, and treasures...as well as your love and support.

*Your humble Director,  
Brian Madigan*



# Preschool News

November seemed to fly by.

We joined the church to collect canned food for New Life Beginning this month. On the 10th, each child brought canned food to school and they helped to build a structure out of the donations. Each class took a picture with the massive structure before helping to pack them into boxes. **We collected over 200 cans of food.**



On the 24th we celebrated Thanksgiving with individual classroom feasts. The children had lots of fun making centerpieces and placemats to decorate their tables. They also sang a song and said a prayer before the meal. Pictures and video were posted on the Procure app for parents to see.

Our pajama day will be on December 1st. We will have a school-wide pajama day where the children can come to school in their pajamas and we will collect donations of new pajamas and new or gently used books to donate to LSS.

Our Christmas program will look a little different this year in an effort to limit the amount of people gathering in one space at the same time. We will have individual classroom Christmas scenes or performances outside at different stations for parents to walk through and see their children perform.

We will be closed for winter break **December 24 through January 1st. School will resume on January 3rd.**

*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!*  
*Lisa Clinton*



"Sing to God a new song, for God has done marvelous things. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy."

+ Psalm 98

## STEWARDSHIP

By the time you read this in our December Newsletter, Commitment Sunday will be in our rear window, and I have a few predictions to make:

Our Ministry Fair and Taco Lunch were a great success!  
Over 50 members attended!

Most members brought their pledges and Time and Talents surveys for next year. Thank you very much!

Some members were not able to attend and have not had a chance to turn in a pledge card yet. There is still plenty of time, but our budget process starts soon, and we can't make plans for next year if we don't know your intentions.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and commitment to CLC!

Sincerely,  
Matt Green, Stewardship Chair



**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:** Alberta, Marylyn, Terry,  
Gladi Adams, Jeri Cooper Alacano, Cheryl,  
Lori, Marilyn Armstrong, Zach Burkard, Kathy  
Buskirk, Byron, Clara & John Caldwell, Dick &  
Nancy Challis, Charlie and David Corm, Mary  
and Max Croes, Kevin & family, Manuel John  
Duarte, John Daly, Becky Dave, Rosemary  
Dougherty, Tamra Fitzgerald, Christy & Karl,  
Brechtin Flournoy, Alberta Gray, Cindy Gray,  
Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoenig, Kylie &  
Crystal Huber, JoDee Irwin, Victoria Johnson,  
Doris Jung, Linda Kuhn, Barb Korsmo, Katrina  
Lahr, Peggy Miller, Barb Ontiveros, Paul  
Perencevic, Mike Rainey, Kristina & Scott  
Randolph, Debbie Reighard, Bob Schlaf,  
JayeAnna & Ethan, Casey and Mark Smith,  
Katie Swartz, Anna Watt-Morse, Ed Weston,  
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, Michael Cote, Aaron  
Crayton, William Eaton, Damian Ellsworth,  
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.



- 12/3** *Angel Trujillo*
- 12/6** *Shirley Pierce*
- 12/6** *Eleanor Strain*
- 12/8** *Judy Haenn*
- 12/13** *Samantha Benoit*
- 12/13** *Daniel Peralta*
- 12/13** *Linda Zimmerman*
- 12/14** *Kara Ihrig*
- 12/15** *Claudia Fitzpatrick*
- 12/17** *Robin Black*
- 12/18** *Renu Moon*
- 12/19** *Angie Nelson*
- 12/23** *Annette Rodrigues*
- 12/27** *Pat Barnett*
- 12/31** *Ruth Benner*

OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans) will meet on **Thursday, December 2** at **12:00 noon** in the Social Hall. Bring a side dish to share.

Daytimer's LunchBunch will meet again on **Tuesday, December 30** at **11:30am** at Hof's Hut on Bellflower Blvd in Los Altos.

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Continuing a long time, CLC tradition, we will be collecting new pajamas for all aged youth and new or gently used books. These are distributed by Lutheran Social Services (LSS) at a community Christmas party in Long Beach.

**Please bring these items on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> or December 5<sup>th</sup>**



**Seafarer Gift Bags need to be in the church by Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. You can also contribute individual items that Lutheran Maritime Ministry will put in to gift bags for distribution. See a list in the Narthex for suggested gifts.**



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 **\$91.67** from just **16** 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 **\$502.29 since we began participating in this program.** Thanks so much



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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 **\$2298.00 so far in 2021.** Thank you to church members who have selected CLC to receive these charitable gifts. Ask your Thrivent rep for details.

## Help Still Needed

**SUNDAY EDUCATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!!** In order to provide you with a variety of Sunday Educational classes, we need leaders. If you have a special talent or expertise on a particular subject that you think would be of interest,, or if you would be willing to lead a class after church on Sunday, please let us know. You can contact the church office via email or phone. [officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com) 562 598-2433

*Thank you for considering this.  
Deborah Otterson, Church Council Education*



# SHARE THE GIFT OF LIFE.



*love, give, live.*

**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> between 830am and 230pm in the Social Hall.** Once again we are having a Red Cross Blood Drive to end out the year. This will be the most precious gift you give this Christmas season. Your blood will also be the most precious gift someone receives this season!

Go to [redcrossblood.org/CLCLB](http://redcrossblood.org/CLCLB) to sign up or call Kim in the church office for an appointment.



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*



# CHRISTMAS MARKET

It will be on Saturday, December 4 from 10am to 2pm in the parking lot. Some of the vendors will be Fair Trade Long Beach members, 10,000 Villages and African Team Ministries handcrafts.

There will be jewelry, gift items, pottery, succulents, kids activity area with crafts and games, 30 vendors in all.

This is our first market that is open to the community so we are hoping that we do well and that this can continue to be an event we offer every year.

Hopefully, this is the first of many opportunities for us to reach out to the community.

*“For unto you is born ... a Saviour,  
which is Christ the Lord.”*

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS**

*Luke 2:11*

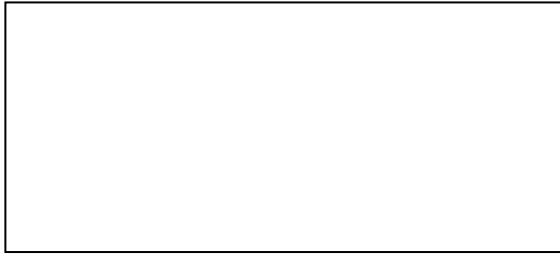
*Wishing you all the joy your heart can hold.*

*Merry Christmas!*

*Pastor Pam, Brian, Roger, Lisa and Kim*

**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.

**January NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:  
December 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.christlutheranlb.com](http://www.christlutheranlb.com)

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

**Please join us for Sunday Worship  
830am or 1030am**



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