



**Pastor Pam's Pennings**

**February 2022  
Volume 66 Issue 2**

*I thank my God every time I remember you, Philippians 1.3*

Thank you.

Thank you so much.

Thank you so much for everything.

I think back to 2013 when we began the conversation – wondering if coming together as pastor and people was what God intended. As we continued that conversation it became apparent that this was indeed what God intended.

So, we did it! With prayer and with faith that God would bless our time together, we became Pastor and people – serving God as Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool. We have worked together, played together, laughed and cried, and prayed together. We have mourned people whose lives were connected to this community. We have celebrated people as they were baptized and confirmed. We have welcomed people as they chose to become a part of this faith community.

And, we have stayed together – even when we had to be distant from each other for safety's sake – which was so hard to do and yet so awesome that we didn't even miss ONE SUNDAY'S WORSHIP. It may not have always been beautiful – but we did it!

I'm so grateful for the staff: Lisa Clinton, the Preschool director; Brian Madigan, the Director of Worship and Music; and Kim Croes, the Office Manager who pull together to keep the daily life, and the faith life of this community going. It's not an easy task, to be sure.

I'm so grateful to all who have served on the Congregation Council, the Boards and Ministries of our congregation, the task forces, and the special committees. Your time, energy, prayers, and dedication are deeply appreciated!

I'm so grateful to all who have given their talents for singing, ringing, ushering, greeting, leading worship, and praying. Your gifts of service in worship are deeply appreciated.

As I lead worship and preach one last time on February 20, know that I am forever grateful for all that you have taught me. I will no longer be your pastor, but I will forever be your sister in Christ. I know I will thank God every time I remember you.

God's richest blessings be with all of you!

*Pastor Pam Challis*

A message from our current congregation president –  
Bryce Bonilla-Haenn

“I know it may seem as if more uncertainty has been added to an uncertain time, but we have faith in God, and God has faith in us. I look forward to our community growing closer and stronger this year. Peace be to all of you.”



Greetings!

Another month of Epiphany, otherwise known as the: “let’s cram in all the happy joyous songs we can fit in before Lent begins” season. There is no written rule to refrain from joyous songs during Lent; however, there is an unwritten rule to avoid “alleluias.” We will have plenty of those on Easter...I promise!

As I plan and prepare the music for Lent, I could use a little help. Although the bells are currently healthy, our choir has really taken a hit the past year with so many moving away or unable to sing with us. I pray you will consider singing with us...even if it is just for this Easter season. To keep things safe, we rehearse on Thursdays in the Social Hall with doors open, and the air moving, while being masked and social distancing. We keep the rehearsals no longer than 45 minutes.

I hope you all are keeping safe, and I'll see you on Sundays

Your humble Director,

Brian Madigan



# Preschool News

We had a very nice winter break December 23 through January 1st. School resumed on January 3rd and January remained a pretty calm month. On Wednesday, January 12th, we had a Snow Day for the children at school. The Long Beach Ice Company blew in snow on our playground and the classes took turns playing in the snow and sliding down a hill made of snow. To make the day even more special, a parent let us borrow their snow machine so not only was there snow on the ground but there was also snow falling on the playground. It was such a fun day for the children.

In February we will have Special Person Day. We are hoping to be able to host an in person Special Person Day, where each child can bring someone that is special to them like a grandparent, aunt, or uncle to enjoy the morning with them at school. However, depending on where COVID leads us, we may need to have an altered Special Person Day instead once again. In this case, each child will get to bring a picture of a special person and share about them to their friends. They will do a couple special activities in the courtyard including an obstacle course, dying carnations, and making a card to take to their special person.

We are planning to move forward with our Annual Auction at the Grand on Friday, March 10th. The theme will be "Glitter and Gold Gala." We are excited to once again be able to host this fun, in person event after our two year hiatus. We were able to book an outside space at the Grand and we will have auction baskets, live auction items, teacher dates, a wine pull and other games at the event. We typically send out auction letters the first week of January, but we decided to hold off on asking for donations for a few weeks while we wait and see where the COVID surge takes us. We are hopeful that we will still be able to host the event with safety precautions in place.

*Wishing you a beautiful month!*

*Lisa Clinton*

## 2021 President's Report

This message will also appear in the 2021 Annual Report.

COVID has made my term as President-Elect and President very interesting and challenging. As a congregation, you always are resilient and trust God to help move you forward. Thank you for choosing me to lead you during this time. I will always treasure the learning experience and chance to make Christ Alive in our midst.

Since starting my term as President, I feel good about reaching my goal. My goal was to be catalyst for growth and celebrating the good things that Christ Lutheran had in place already.

In February, the church council set goals for this year. It helped put our intentions for Christ Lutheran in place. Everyone on church council met their goal or goals! Please show your gratitude to them.

In March, our church council began doing research to see what other congregations were doing and to see how we could enhance our present programs. We also had presentation from Holy Cow to see how we could survey our congregation to see what the needs were. Our church council decided to survey the congregation through the CAT survey.

In April, we implemented the CAT survey. We thank all the people who filled out the survey. We received a ton of information.

In May, Christ Lutheran began worshipping in person at two different services. We started receiving and digesting the information from our survey. We planned how to share this information with the congregation. Also, we started planning Vacation Bible School.

In June and July, we started planning our church council retreat to develop a plan of action based on the survey. The CAT survey results were presented to the congregation. We planned and held a successful Vacation Bible School and had many parents attend the concluding program for VBS.

From August until now, we had our church council retreat to begin planning how to move Christ Lutheran forward the rest of the year. Our top three goals from that retreat were:

1. Rebrand the Church – how can we create more awareness of Christ Lutheran to the community.

(Continued on next page)

The way that we have already started to address this issue is by:

- We had the Taco truck on the street in front of our church on commitment Sunday so people could see what a fun church we are!
- The Christmas Market attracted a lot of people from the community. We had cards to pass out to the people advertising our Christmas Services and times.
- Many people continue to share the service on Facebook or share the "What's Happening at Christ Lutheran this Week."
- Our website has been updated making it easier to navigate. Pastor Pam refers to the website in her announcements every Sunday.
- The church council is going to continue to find other ways to make Christ Lutheran Church Visible through other social medias and other visible ways.

## 2. Enhance worship (Visible music worship leader, more praise music, enhance the Greeter role)

The worship committee has addressed this goal in the following ways:

- New Praise music was purchased.
- Brian has been up front to teach the music.
- The choir and handbell choir have started performed the music at several services.
- Ushers continue to be trained.
- They planned and had the Beer and Brats Sunday to develop more community spirit.
- See Worship Report for more information

## 3. Hire a new youth director

A committee was formed to investigate hiring a new youth director. This committee has updated the job description and will begin reaching out to other ELCA churches to see if they would like to share a youth director.

This church council has done a lot this year. I know that I am forgetting some of it, thank you again for allowing me to lead you. I know that I am leaving you in good hands.

*Yours in Christ,  
Deb Albrecht*



**We regret to report that Carol Price passed away soon after Christmas from complications of a**

**broken hip. Sean Benoit suffered a heart attack on December 29<sup>th</sup> and was removed from life support on January 13<sup>th</sup>. His organs were donated by his family. We pray for the Lord's comfort and peace for all family and friends who are grieving.**

**Members at Home or in Care Centers:** Justin Bartlow, Judy Haenn, Ione Marchael, Don Westerhoff, and Frances Willms.

**Those struggling with illness or other concerns:** Roger Bredenkamp, Daniel Howard, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.

**Family & Friends:** Marylyn, Terry, Gladi Adams, Cheryl, Lori, Lois Brown, Zach Burkard, Byron, Clara & John Caldwell, Dick & Nancy Challis, Steve, Charlie and David Corm, Elaina Cray, Mary and Max Croes, Kevin & family, Brechin Flournoy, Kristen & Jonathan Gluff, Alberta Gray, Cindy Gray, Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoenig, Kylie & Crystal Huber, JoDee Irwin, Doris Jung, Linda Kuhn, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Barb Ontiveros, Paul Perencevic, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Mary Kathryn Rivera, JayeAnna & Ethan, Casey and Mark Smith, Katie Swartz, Twilla and Mason Tucker, Theresia Tuer, Anna Watt-Morse, Ed Weston, Teresa, Jessica, 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 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.



- 2/1 Harriette Probst**
- 2/3 Sarah Swagler**
- 2/4 Kathleen Davis**
- 2/5 Angela Joseph**
- 2/9 Natalie Stamer**
- 2/11 Jeff Rodrigues**
- 2/12 Frank Croes**
- 2/13 Jeanne Paige-Peterson**
- 2/14 Choe Halvorson**
- 2/17 Rich Williams**
- 2/18 Angie Rollins**
- 2/19 Karen Wyrick**
- 2/20 Laurel Elliott**
- 2/21 Nancy Knight**
- 2/27 Christine Chiem**

OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans) will attempt to meet on Thursday, February 3 at 12:00 noon in the Social Hall. Bring a side dish to share. If the Covid crisis is still overwhelming, we may have to cancel once again. Stay tuned.

Daytimer’s LunchBunch may meet on Tuesday, February 22 at 11:30am at Hof’s Hut on Bellflower Blvd in Los Altos. Again, all is dependent upon the severity of the current Covid challenge.

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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 **\$60.10** from just **13** households

September through the end of November: for a total of \$362.18 in 2021!

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We also receive contributions from

**Amazon Smile** if you designate Christ Lutheran as the charity of choice for eligible

purchases. We have received **\$548.45** 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.





**The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis – its worst blood shortage in over a decade, posing a concerning risk to patient care.** With less than a one-day supply of critical blood types in recent weeks, doctors have been forced to make difficult decisions about who receives blood transfusions and who will need to wait until more products become available. The Red Cross is working around the clock to meet the blood needs of hospitals and patients – but can't do it alone. We need your help!

**Type O blood is desperately needed, please give if you are able.**

**Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> between 830am and 230pm in the Social Hall.** Go to [redcrossblood.org/CLCLB](http://redcrossblood.org/CLCLB) to sign up or call Kim in the church office for an appointment.

# There Wouldn't Be a (Merry) Christmas Without Seafarers

Portions of an article reprinted from Beachcomber News Published by admin on Thu, 12/30/2021  
**By: Roberto Vazquez**

(This is an organization, ISC, that Christ Lutheran has supported for many years through Lutheran Maritime Ministries. This article provides a wonderful explanation of the work being done to support international sailors.)

It's the sunset hour, on Christmas Eve. Rain has fallen steadily throughout the day. The sky is dark and heavy, shaped with ominous clouds. Under the gloomy canopy, a cacophony of sounds rises from the asphalt jungle. Cranes bearing cargo containers creak and groan, air brakes hiss like pistons, and laden rigs growl as they rumble to destinations, both near and far.

The Long Beach Cargo Terminal is a stone's throw from the International Seafarers Center (ISC). Guy Fox is the chairman of the board of the ISC, a non-profit charitable organization that's served the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles since the early 1980s. Fox reflected on the holiday season and a supply chain that's been backlogged for more than a year and said, "Without the seafarers, there wouldn't be a Christmas."

Sailors face physical and mental fatigue doing highly dangerous, low paying duties over prolonged periods of time. To address the fatigue, stress and restlessness, the center provides all merchant marines a place to relax. Sailors can sleep, socialize, watch television, cook, do laundry or use a computer to contact family and friends.

For one sailor at the ISC, this Christmas Eve is a painful one. (His wife passed away three weeks ago after a long illness.) Ruben Datu is spending the entire day with fellow sailors, Tony Antonio and Butch Amar, playing mahjong. They also spoke about the backlog of foreign flag vessels waiting to unload, due to COVID quarantines, and the growing sense of isolation. They cited several factors, including the lack of Wi-Fi signal on the vessels, being unable to contact family members for months at a time, and being unable to leave the ship. Datu said, "Some sailors become depressed, violent and need counseling."

At the center, or on a vessel, seafarers can receive counseling and spiritual guidance from Reverend Samson Chauhan, who said, "Any sailor, any country, any denomination ... all sailors are my brothers and sisters."

Due to the quarantine issue, Chauhan must personally visit the foreign flag vessels. Chauhan stated, "Pray for us. Be mindful of the important service these sailors provide the supply chain. This is important because there is a human toll." He added, "They leave their families at home for

months at a time and only North America and Europe provide this type of center for international sailors.”

In addition to Chauhan, Pat Pettit and Merry Jo Dickey represent the heart of the ISC operation. They are a two-person welcoming committee for the men and women far away from the comforts of family and home.

Pettit is the center’s manager. According to her, the ISC serves both American and foreign flag seafarers. However, due to the pandemic, it’s only been American seafarers for more than a year. Pettit, better known as “Mom Pat”, has been with the ISC since 1982. She recalls how it all began. “It started out as a little trailer, then a mobile home, then a portable office was donated.” As she packaged gift bags, Pettit said, “This is my Santa’s workshop.” Pettit’s been around a long time, enough to see changes. She said the foreign flag vessels are still 95% male, whereas the American vessels now include 25-30% female.

Merry Jo Dickey has also seen many events in her 30 years at the center. Dickey is the full-time, resident attendant and said, “No two days are ever the same.” Dickey has also witnessed the spirit of the seafarers.

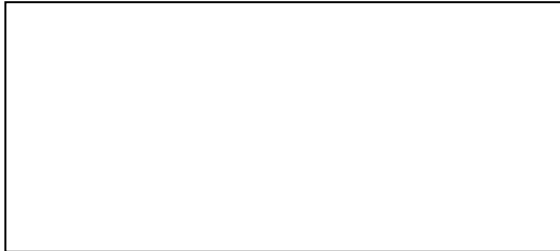
She stated, “Seafarers are a unique group of men and women. They’re hard working and selfless. The international seafarers work such long hours, six months to a year. Everything they do, they do for their families ... India, China, the Philippines...”

Dickey, who was born on Christmas Day, added, “I love this place. I think it’s the best place ever. There’s nothing I’d rather be doing. There’s not a lot of money, but this is my calling, what I’m supposed to be doing.”

For these grateful seafarers, the center is the best Christmas gift ever, indeed.

**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:  
February 15**

***Life In Christ***  
Is the newsletter of

**Christ Lutheran Church  
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Long Beach, CA 90815-3497  
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**Please join us for Sunday Worship  
830am or 1030am**

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