



Pastor Pam's Pennings

December 2017
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December! Soon 2017 will be in the books and I wonder what historians will say about this year where there was so much controversy and violence and mistrust and betrayal of trust. How does 2017 compare to other years? I'm glad we have people who figure that kind of thing out for us!

And into this comes a baby...a baby who was born to bring light into darkness and hope into despair. This baby came to the world as all babies do – through a mother's womb. He was born into a time where there was controversy and violence and mistrust and betrayal of trust and still, somehow he spoke words of healing and hope; words of honesty and openness; words of God and God's love for **ALL** of humanity and for this planet that God spoke into being years before.

As we gaze into the manger this Christmas, I pray that in those baby's eyes you can catch a glimpse of the true meaning of this season...love. Christmas is all about love – not the sentimental sappiness of television or the movies – but real and genuine love that brings order

into chaos, light into darkness, hope into despair. Love that seeks good and celebrates kindness. Love that...*bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

As you talk with your family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and acquaintances, I pray that you will find a way to bring into the conversation the reality of serving a God who came to earth as a baby – and whose love for all of humanity is wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. **Invite someone to worship this Advent season – or to the Christmas Concert on the 17th at 3pm – or to our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.** These Sundays help us to remember the truest reason for the season...Jesus is born and the world will never be the same.

Merry Christmas!

PS – another exciting thing to invite friends and family to is our **Labyrinth Dedication set for Epiphany Sunday, January 7, 2018.** Randal Foster, Vice President of our Synod will be here to help us dedicate this new community outreach and prayer tool. We will have a party afterward! Anyone for King's Cake?



Happy Birthday, Jesus!

This will be my first Christmas without my mom. I used to make fun of her and her 36 Santa Clauses and nine Christmas trees of all shapes and sizes that would fill the house. I grew tired of the many hours of unboxing decorations for her each year. I remember saying that I cannot wait for the day when I no longer have to do this. Be careful what you wish for! I miss it already! I miss her! Now, I am seriously considering decorating my house this year (I never liked the commercialism of Christmas and refused to decorate each year). Treasure these moments my friends for you never know how long you will enjoy them. God bless you all and have a Merry Christmas!

We have some wonderful music planned for this month. In addition to our beautiful Advent services, we will have some special services to put on your calendar:

Sunday morning, December 24th : Cantata Sunday is the final Sunday of Advent. Please join us as the music program will present **"The Coming"**, a rock cantata depicting the coming of both John the Baptist and Jesus.

Sunday evening the 24th at 5:00pm: Christmas Eve Family Service. That evening, at 5:00, will be the Christmas Eve family service with our youth presenting the Christmas Story. Depending on holiday schedules, our available youth will also share some music they have been working on this season. The Praise Team and Bell Choir will also provide their talents.

Sunday evening, the 24th at 10:00pm: Christmas Eve Traditional Service. The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir, along with Organ and other special guests will be present.

Christmas morning, the 25th: Christmas Lessons and Carols. This service will be filled with the lessons and carols of the season so come ready to sing...a lot!

I hope you enjoy the music we have prepared this season...and don't forget about our annual **Christmas Concert on the 17th at 3:00.** Our talented musicians at Christ Lutheran have spent a great deal of time and effort to make this afternoon special. Please join us for a memorable afternoon.

Youth Music News!!!! Kaleidoscope has started back up again for children ages K-5th grade. We will sing, dance, play instruments, play games/activities, do drama, and make crafts. We meet on Tuesday nights from 4:30-5:00 (eventually expanding it to an hour from 4:30-5:30). We have lots of fun so come join us!

The kids are preparing music for the Christmas Concert and are having a blast.

Youth Band has begun leading music for the opening of Confirmation every Wednesday night. The revised schedule is as followed: 4:30-5:30 Youth Band Practice; 5:30-5:40 Opening Prayer and Music; 5:40-6:30 Dinner with Games/Activities to follow; and 6:30-7:30 Confirmation. They are also working on music for the Christmas Concert, as well as Christmas Eve.

Music Makers : I am enjoying chapel time with the pre-school. I hope to have the **Music Makers** join us at the Christmas Concert and perform a song or two.

Thank you for your patience with the organ. We have a few small items to refurbish over the next few months but this should not disrupt use of the organ on Sunday mornings. Thank you Roger for doing a great job!

*Thanks!
Your humble Director,
Brian Madigan*

High School and Young Adult Ministries

"Christmas is a necessity. There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves."

~ Eric Sevareid, *Commentator and Reporter*.

One of the beautiful qualities of Christ Lutheran Church is our ability to serve not only each other but those in our communities. May the peace and wonder of the Christ Child touch you and your families this holiday season – thank you for all you do!

Sunday, December 3, 11:00 a.m. Movie Afternoon– PJ’s at church?! What an awesome day to continue the party by having our monthly movie together! I'll give you a hint as to what we will be watching: "Buddy the Elf! What’s your favorite color?!"



Don't forget! Christmas Green order forms are due by **Sunday, December 3**. Items ordered will be available for pick-up on Wednesday, December 13. All payments (cash or check) are due at this time. Orders will not be released until they are paid in full.



Miracle Ranch. Our trip to Miracle Ranch is scheduled for Friday, December 1, and Saturday, December 2. Please talk with DeJesus or Pastor Pam for more information and watch the bulletin for updates!

THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who donated their time and energy to making the Alternative Christmas Fair a success! I hope to have more information on how much we raised from both the Fair and Christmas Greens sales in January 2018.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions!

Sarah Swagler



Preschool News

November seemed to fly by. On the 22nd we celebrated Thanksgiving with a school wide performance and a finger food feast in the social hall. The tables looked beautiful with the centerpieces and placemats that the children made.



Our pajama day on November 28th was a lot of fun and very successful. We collected pajamas and books to donate to hurricane victims.



In December we will have a special family Dec 8th with a Christmas lights tour of Naples Red Bus. We will start with cookies and cocoa and then board the open air, double decker bus live guitar player leading us in Christmas carols all of the beautiful lights. What a great way to get in the Christmas spirit!



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Our annual Christmas program, "**Who Is Coming to Our House**" will be on Friday, **December 15th at 3:30pm** in the sanctuary. The sanctuary is always packed for this special program. All of the children participate. Rooms 4 & 5 will be our stable animals and Mary & Joseph, Room 3 will be angels, Room 2 will be little drummer boys & girls, Room 1 will be shepherd and sheep, and Room 6 will be the star and "wise babies".

We will be closed for **winter break December 22 through January 1st**. School will resume on January 2nd.

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

Blessing When the World is Ending

*Look, the world is always ending somewhere.
Somewhere the sun has come crashing down.
Somewhere it has gone completely dark.
Somewhere it has ended with the gun, the knife, the fist.
Somewhere it has ended with the slammed door, the shattered hope.
Somewhere it has ended with the utter quiet that follows the news from
the phone, the television, the hospital room.
Somewhere it has ended with a tenderness that will break your heart.
But, listen, this blessing means to be anything but morose.
It has not come to cause despair.*

*It is simply here because there is nothing a blessing is better suited for
than an ending,
nothing that cries out more for a blessing than when a world is falling
apart.
This blessing will not fix you, will not mend you, will not give you false
comfort; it will not talk to you about one door opening when another one
closes.
It will simply sit itself beside you among the shards and gently turn your
face toward the direction from which the light will come, gathering itself
about you as the world begins again.*

(by Jan Richardson)



“Loose Threads”

The women of Loose Threads have made a decision to change the schedule of their fellowship & sewing activities. Rather than meet on a monthly basis, they will meet when there is a particular project to work on as a group. Chris Panos and Sheryl Hunter will continue to be available for advice and sewing assistance for anyone needing them. Please call Chris Panos at (562) 986-4393 for more information.

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Men’s Bible Study Meets the second Monday of each month at 7pm. Men of all ages are encouraged to come

to the conference room for a time of study and fellowship. Next meeting is Monday, December 11.

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Sunday, Dec. 3 is Pajama Sunday
Bring a new pair of children’s pajamas and a new or gently used book to be sent to the youngest hurricane survivors in Puerto Rico.

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Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, December 28 between 12:00pm and 6:00pm in the social hall. Schedule your appointment on line at redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code **CLCLB** or call Kim in the church office. 562 598-2433.

Pray for Peace in the Middle East

Join Pastor Pam in the Sanctuary on the 24th of each month at 7pm to pray for peace in this fragile and volatile area of the world. Raising our voices together in hope for respect and resolution is one way that we can support our brothers and sisters in this region.



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The Sons of Norway meet in CLC’s Social Hall at **noon on the second Saturday of each month.**



Everyone is welcome to attend their meetings to see what this cultural group is all about. Our next meeting is **December 9th at 12:00pm.**

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Grief Group

This group meets on the first Sunday of every month to be a support for all types of loss.



This is not a closed group, so please attend as you can and invite others should they have the need. We will meet on Sunday, December 3rd at 2pm.

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members at Home or in Care Centers: Justin Bartlow, Anne Bruner, Mary Clayton, Coleen Fenton, Ione Marchael, Ron Nelson, Mikki Nemnich and Joyce Rothrock.

Those struggling with illness or other concerns: BJ Anthony, Judy Haenn, Daniel Howard, Dave Nell, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Lonnie Timney, Ed Trost and Cathy Westwood.

Family & Friends: Lois Brown, John Byron, Edi Callas, Beth Cassford, Frances Cavinder, Patrick Clinton, Rory Fitzpatrick, Vicki Fitzpatrick, Kathy Goodwin, Alberta Gray, Robert Hammersley, Paul Hayes, Evie Holdhusen, Johanna Hope, Bobbie Hoenig, Leslie Hoskins, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Doris Jung, Laurie Kelly, Katrina Lahr, Barbara Lindsay, Steve Nelson, Todd Olson, Lisa Paioni, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Bruce Short, Perry Taggart, Jack Taylor, Shauna Terry & family, Mary Tracy, Anna Watt-Morse, Nancy Weston, Terri Weston, Jenny and Steve West and Gary Zimmerman.

We pray for the ongoing work of:
Linda Gawthorne among the Kogi people of Colombia.

Those serving in our nation's military: Jason Arellano, Samuel Brown, Gene Chen, Rachel & Victor Colon, Ethan Cordle, Michael Cote, Aaron Crayton, William Eaton, Nicholas Flournoy, Gabriel Gallegos, Richard Gallegos, Chandler Hoover, John Lambertson, Brittany Graham, Davis McElwain, Morgan Llewellyn, Haley Fessenden, Johnny Luna, Shawn McRae, Emily Merritt, Steven Andrew Navarro, Michael Joseph Navarro, Jim Reeder, Sophie Schade, Douglas Steelhammer, Jonah Westcott, Joshua Wauchope and Collin White.



Happy Anniversary

- 12/5 Julia and Jeff Curel*
- 12/30 Susan and Mike Clark*



- 12/2 Kathryn Tinsley*
- 12/3 Angel Trujillo*
- 12/6 Shirley Pierce*
- 12/8 Judy Haenn*
- 12/13 Samantha Benoit*
- 12/13 Daniel Peralta*
- 12/13 Linda Zimmerman*
- 12/15 Kevin Barnett*
- 12/15 Claudia Fitzpatrick*
- 12/17 Robin Black*
- 12/18 Renu Moon*
- 12/19 Angie Nelson*
- 12/19 Hugo Paez*
- 12/23 Annette Rodrigues*
- 12/26 Justin Bartlow*
- 12/27 Pat Barnett*
- 12/29 Sierra Latiff*
- 12/31 Ruth Benner*
- 11/23 Jeremy Rodrigues*