



Pastor Pam's Pennings

January 2018
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! What will 2018 bring? Only God knows! I still cannot believe that we are in a new year once again. I used to think my great-grandmother was crazy when she said that each year came faster and faster. Now...I understand!

As we move into this new year, there are some issues that I want you to know we are working on:

- Projection in the sanctuary. We know that there are issues and we are trying our best to get them fixed. I ask for your forbearance and grace as we work through them. It is not easy to work through these issues, but please know we are trying! If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me.
- Roofing and HVAC in the offices/Social Hall. This is going to be completed soon and we hope this will save us money on air conditioning! It was scary to have one of the roofers fall though last month. We are very glad that he is okay.
- Lighting retrofit continues to add extra brightness to the spaces with the LED lights while saving us money on our energy bills.
- Front of my office flood control. We approved getting this done and Mike Freligh and his capable crew will be on this project soon.
- 10 Year Planning Committee is hard at work looking at all of the issues for our next decade. Keep them in your prayers. They will be reporting to us preliminary findings at this month's annual meeting.

Our labyrinth will be dedicated on January 7 after worship. We will have the pleasure of having Randall Foster, our synod vice president here to celebrate this occasion. It's Epiphany, so we're going to have a party with King's cake and all the fixings.

[Our 2018 annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 21.](#) This meeting is vital for all voting members to attend. We elect our Congregation Council members and pass the yearly budget. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend today.

I am excited that some women from CLC are going to be attending the CLC-LV retreat in Saint George, Utah. We will be gone on February 4, and will have to listen to the Super Bowl as we drive home!

Many blessings as 2018 begins...*Pastor Pam*



Happy New Year!

So...what is your New Year resolution? Well, for me, I will be entering a new phase in my life. Sometimes, it is necessary to shift gears and start anew. I have so many things I want to accomplish this year that it is becoming a bit overwhelming. So, I will try something new and attempt a new month's resolution this year.

Every month I will have a specific goal for both my personal and work environments. To get things started, I will be working on my health—getting back to eating healthy and working out; working on my music—getting back to my compositions and recordings; and working on my job—making things even better for Christ Lutheran. I will bring details each month on my progress. Wish me luck!

Youth Music News!!!! [Kaleidoscope](#) will start back up again on Tuesday, January 9th from 4:30-5:30. Remember, this is for children ages K-5th grade. We will sing, dance, play instruments, play games/activities, do drama, and make crafts. We have lots of fun so come join us!

The kids were fantastic at the Christmas Concert and I am excited for the upcoming year.

Youth Band will start back up on Wednesday, January 10th from 4:30-5:30. They were great at the Christmas Concert and I am looking forward to what they can do next.

Music Makers : I am so glad some of the kids were able to make the Christmas Concert. They were SO CUTE!!!

The **Chancel Choir, Hand Bell Choir, and Praise Team** had a much needed week off after Christmas. They worked so hard this season and sounded fantastic. **THANK YOU!!!**

I am learning that I should not make promises if I cannot deliver them. I apologize. I promised the Organ repairs would not affect Sunday morning: they have! I promised an Advent Cantata on December 24th, there wasn't one! I apologize, but we were extremely busy preparing music for the Concert, and Christmas Eve, as well as fixing the sound system and PowerPoint. Excuses, excuses...I know, but I am doing the best I can and I am making these items first priority for the New Year. Thank you for your patience!

Once I recover from Christmas I will organize my goals for the New Year and share them with you in my next article. Thanks!

Your humble Director,

Brian Madigan

High School and Young Adult Ministries



Joy to the world! The Lord has come! I hope that you all enjoyed a blessed Christmas and wish you a prosperous and joyful New Year in 2018!

Grant, Justin and I traveled back home to Chicago to see family and friends and I will return to Long Beach after completing my next intensive course at Luther Seminary on Sunday, January 7.

We also have some very exciting news to share – Grant is being promoted to “big brother” status in June 2018 to not one but **two** siblings! We are thrilled to welcome the Swagler twins (they are fraternal and we do not yet know their genders) to the family and community! Any and all prayers are welcome as we grow our family!



Monthly Movie Afternoon! Mark your calendars! Our monthly movie afternoon will be on **Sunday, January 28**, at 11 a.m. after church! All high school and middle school students are welcome!

Thank you! Many thanks to everyone who has donated to the youth group for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering trip to Houston thus far! As of the end of December, we have raised close to \$700 of our goal to \$3,000 for the trip! Be on the lookout for more fun fundraising activities coming up!

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

Sarah Swagler



Preschool News

On December 8th we had a special family Christmas lights tour of Naples on the Big a great way to get in the Christmas spirit!



outing with a Red Bus. What

Our annual Christmas program, "Who Is Coming to Our House" was on Friday, December 15th. The sanctuary was packed as usual. After the show we enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies that were baked by the children with Ms. Clinton, Pastor Pam, and and Mrs. Sarah.



December 17th our Room 5 students in Music Makers sang at the Church Christmas Concert.

We close for winter break December 22 through January 1st. School resumes on January 2nd.

We are now planning our 2018 auction which will be on Friday, March 9th at 6pm. We are in the process of sending out letters to collect donations. Looking forward to this fun-filled event!



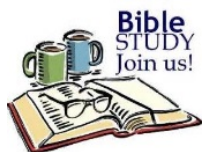
Happy New Year!
Lisa Clinton



“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, January 8**.

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Blood Drive



American Red Cross

Thank you to everyone who donated blood last month. Your participation was very much appreciated by local hospitals that are always in need of a continuous supply of blood products.

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 **January 13th 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, January 7th 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, Frances Cavinder, Patrick Clinton, Rory Fitzpatrick, Vicki Fitzpatrick, Alberta Gray, Robert Hammersley, Paul Hayes, Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoenig, Helen Horner, Leslie Hoskins, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Doris Jung, Laurie Kelly, Katrina Lahr, Barbara Lindsay, Steve Nelson, Lisa Paioni, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Alicia Saldana, Bruce Short, Jack Stolle, Jack Taylor, Shauna Terry & family, Mary Tracy, Anna Watt-Morse, Bill, Ed, Margie and 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

1/16 Heidi and Ricardo Espinoza



- 1/2 Beverly Koenen*
- 1/2 Jared Petrbock*
- 1/5 Bary Schlieder*
- 1/7 Kristine Trost*
- 1/9 Matt Green*
- 1/9 Jennifer Latiff*
- 1/16 Linda McGee*
- 1/18 Kathy Klute-Nelson*
- 1/20 Marvin Moon*
- 1/22 Gloria Tadlock*
- 1/24 Rob Randig*
- 1/27 Mark Ennen*
- 1/27 Garrett Latiolait*

***The United States, Israel, and Palestine:
The Piece Process (sic) Continues***
Presentation by Jerry Levin



Saturday, January 6, 2:00 pm
Christ Lutheran Church, 6500 Stearns St., Long Beach 90815

Jerry Levin is a former CNN network journalist, public speaker, and activist on nonviolence, with an emphasis on the Middle East and in particular, Palestine and Israel. In 1984 he was kidnapped and held hostage by Hezbollah. He escaped after eleven and a half months in captivity due to efforts of friends and colleagues organized by his wife, Sis Levin. Of Jewish descent, Levin converted to Christianity during his captivity where he had a profound spiritual and philosophical awakening, prompting him to commit to non-violent means of achieving peace. A member of CPT (Christian Peacemaker Teams), he and his wife served for many years in the occupied territories trying to help Palestinians withstand the impoverishing and expropriating effects of the Israeli Army's colonial rule of the West Bank and its ghettoization of Gaza. Included in his presentation is an explanation of the impact fundamentalist Christian Zionists have on Congress and the Administration in shaping U.S. policies in the Middle East. Jerry Levin has worked with several violence reduction organizations in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as peace and justice organizations in the U.S. He has written about his conversion to nonviolence in *Reflections On My First Noel* and his experiences in the Middle East in *West Bank Diary: Middle East Violence as Reported by a Former American Hostage*. In 1991, Jerry's story was made into a television movie, *Held Hostage*. The movie starred Marlo Thomas, and David Dukes as Levin. In April 2009 he and his wife were recognized by the Dalai Lama as one of 2009's "Unsung Heroes of Compassion." Meet and hear Jerry Levin during this visit before he returns to his home in Alabama.

Bring a friend; admission is free and parking is plentiful.

You are cordially invited to our Labyrinth
Dedication and Epiphany Party
Sunday, January 7, 2018 after worship @ 11am



Congratulations to Justin Randig as this project earned him the
rank of Eagle Scout!

Many thanks to all workers, supporters, donors, and to the
Southwest California Synod.