



Pastor Pam's Pennings

March 2018
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What starts on St. Valentine's Day, ends on April Fool's Day, I love the years that Lent happens like this! The disciplines of Lent – prayer, fasting, helping the poor and less fortunate, seems appropriate to begin on the day we celebrate love. For what love is greater than God's love for us? And, quite honestly, Christianity when practiced in its fullness, seems a religion for fools – for who would fast, pray, and work for the lost, least, last, and little when our society tells us it's all about ME, ME, ME! Nonetheless, Lent is in full swing this month as we gather mid-day and in the evening for a time of worship, prayer and fellowship centered on Word and Sacrament and celebrated with each other.

Jesus reminds us in this season of the true reason he came to earth – to show us how very much God loves us – and to remind us that genuine love, true love, is costly. Jesus was willing to stand up to the powers that be and speak a word of love and truth that cost him his life.

We end March in Holy Week with Maundy Thursday service (including foot washing) at 7pm, Good Friday service at 7pm, and the Greater Long Beach Easter Vigil will be held at Holy Redeemer in Bellflower at 7pm. Our Bishop will be celebrating with us again this year. Holy

Week is a time to remember those last days of Jesus' life, how he chose to live them, and why it is he died...for you...for the world.

God's love is amazing! Easter is coming! And, even in Lent, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus each Sunday. This is why Brian chose a more upbeat liturgy this season in Lent. Even as we practice our Lenten disciplines, the celebration of the Resurrection is real all the time.

I think it is time to do some resurrection here at CLC – with the help of Sarah and the work she is doing to get her degree, we will be re-forming, re-formatting the weekly youth ministry here, including Confirmation, and High School youth group. It's time, and how timely that her Youth Ministry degree from Luther Seminary will give practical and current application to this re-visioning! I'm pretty excited about this possibility!!

Celebrating Justin Randig's Eagle Award is something I'm looking forward to this month. His hard, hard work continues to make our outdoor space more usable, prayerful, and joyful.

It may be Lent...but, hang on, Easter is coming!

Pastor Pam



Greetings!

Lent is obviously the most somber of church seasons. I find it difficult to plan music since bringing lively, uplifting praise music seems so inappropriate for the season. I have been told the six Sundays are excluded (which is why the 46 days of Lent are actually 40 days long) and that uplifting music on Sundays during Lent is acceptable...but I still feel uncomfortable doing this. I always thought the reasons why the six Sundays are excluded are for fasting reasons (I was a choir director at an Orthodox church and they fasted all of Lent...but each Sunday after church we had a feast). Keep in mind, there were only periods of complete fasting...most of the time it was more of a “we have to abstain from meat, et al. from Friday to Sunday.”

So, please be patient with me. Although I will try to blend in lively, uplifting music each Sunday during Lent, I will try to keep things slightly subdued as we continue are journey together to the Cross.

Youth Music News!!!! Kaleidoscope meets on Tuesdays 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! We will continue this group through Lent. I will keep you posted on any schedule changes. We are working on material to present at a concert later on in the Spring.

Youth Band meets on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30. The band is working on a set list so they can put on a concert later on in the Spring. We will continue this group through Lent. I will keep you posted on any schedule changes.

Musicmakers meet on Tuesday mornings from 11:00-11:30. We are now focusing on their music rudiments through singing, rhythm instruments, and bells.

I am so pleased with the overall growth the youth has shown musically thus far. I look forward to each new week and the enthusiasm they generally bring. We are truly blessed here at Christ Lutheran.

I look forward to Holy Week and the beautiful services we have planned.

Thanks!

Your humble Director,
Brian Madigan

High School and Young Adult Ministry Report

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in according to Matthew. It seems as if I cannot read a verse from Matthew without singing secret, will reward you.” (Matthew 6:16 – 18). One of my favorite musicals is *Godspell*, which is based on the gospel a song or bringing forth a memory of the two times I had the privilege of performing in the show. This past month has truly shown me how wonderful you all are in giving of your time, talent and financial blessings. As we continue to fast through Lent, let us remember to keep our joyful spirits towards each other – both inside and outside of church.



Whew – what a busy February it was! We were able to get a lot of fundraising done and here are some numbers:

- Super Bowl Squares raised \$600 + \$100 donated back by winners! Thank you to Ingrid for taking the lead on this one!
- Chili Cook-off raised \$313!! Thank you to Tracy and Connections for their hard work and putting it together!
- We have raised a total of \$2,705 for the Houston trip thus far! We are less than \$300 from our goal!

Luther Glen High School Retreat: 5 of our middle school/high school students and me were able to spend an awesomely enriching time together at Luther Glen! Thank you for your prayers as we traveled safely there and back and had a wonderful experience!

Living Stations of the Cross: Rehearsals began for the Living Stations of the Cross, which will be presented to the congregation as our Good Friday service (Friday, March 30, at 7 p.m.). We still have roles available so bring a friend to help with this experience! Rehearsals are 5:30 – 6 p.m. on Wednesdays through March 28.

EASTER BREAKFAST! Easter will be here before we know it and I need your help! We will be serving breakfast from 9 – 10:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018. Please see me if you are able to donate food (eggs, orange juice, pancakes toppings, sausage) and/or if you are able to help with setting up, cooking and cleaning up on the day of breakfast. Because our youth group is small, I will need a commitment to ensure we have all bases covered as soon as possible. Thank you!

Sarah--





Preschool News

February flew by! We had a wonderful Special Person Day where just about every child had a Special Person! For Valentine's Day, the classrooms each had their own parties to celebrate.

In the month of March we will have our *"Tiaras & Bowties"* auction which will be on Friday, March 9th at 6pm at The Grand. Feel free to dress up and even wear a tiara or bowtie and have a fun night out! We will have around 60 silent auction items, a drink raffle, other lottery type games, dinner and entertainment, live auction, fund an item, and conclude with our 50/50 raffle.



Tickets are \$40 each and will be available for purchase after Church on Sundays or you can contact the preschool office at (562) 594-6117 or info@clplb.com. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 2nd. March 2nd will also be our Wrapping Party in the Social Hall at 6pm. If you would like to come help us arrange and wrap the auction baskets, we would love to have you! If you have any empty baskets of any size lying around, we will gladly accept them. You can drop them off in the Church or Preschool Offices.



In March, we will have fun with the children's imaginations while we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Then, the last two weeks we will have parent teacher conferences as we prepare for Registration which will be the first week of April.

Easter arrives on April 1st, we wish you a joyous celebration!



Wishing you a beautiful Spring!
Lisa Clinton



Wed, Mar. 7- Worship at 11:30am & 7:00pm; Soup Fellowship 12:00pm & 6:00pm

Wed, Mar. 14- Worship at 11:30am & 7:00pm; Soup Fellowship 12:00pm & 6:00pm

Wed, Mar. 21- Worship at 11:30am & 7:00pm; Soup Fellowship 12:00pm & 6:00pm

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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, March 12.**

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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.



Sun, Mar. 25 – Palm Sunday, Worship 9:30am

Thur, Mar. 28- Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00pm

Fri, Mar. 30 - Good Friday Worship 7:00pm

Sat, Mar. 31 - Easter Vigil, 7pm Holy Redeemer, Bellflower

Sunday, April 1 Easter Worship 8am & 10:30am Breakfast 9am-1030am Egg Hunt 9:30am

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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 March 10 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, March 4th at 2pm.



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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members at Home or in Care Centers: Justin Bartlow, Anne Bruner, Coleen Fenton and Ione Marchael.

Those struggling with illness or other concerns: BJ Anthony, Carol Goller, Judy Haenn, Daniel Howard, Donna Johnson, the Joseph family, Dave Nell, Ron Nelson, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Lonnie Timney, Ed Trost and Cathy Westwood.

Family & Friends: Jeri Cooper Alacano, Alexis Blair, Lois Brown, John Byron, Charlie Corm, Vicki Fitzpatrick, Tracy Fuelleman, Alberta Gray, Paul Hayes, Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoenig, Helen Horner, Mary Horner, Leslie Hoskins, Chris Howry, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Doris Jung, Laurie Kelly, Katrina Lahr, Barbara Lindsay, Troann Loy, Peggy Meyer, Steve Nelson, Don Norris, Sylvie Olson, Lisa Paioni, Ross Panos, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Alicia Saldana, Marlene Shafer, Bruce Short, Jack Stolle, Anna Watt-Morse, Bill Weston, Terri Weston, Jenny and Steve West, Ken Yokoyama 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, Miguel Vancini, Jr., Dominic Vancini, Jonah Westcott, Joshua Wauchope and Collin White.



Happy Anniversary **3/20 Gloria and Eugene Tadlock**



- 3/1 Shaun Murray**
- 3/2 Sara Benoit**
- 3/2 Taylor Williams**
- 3/3 Angie Freligh**
- 3/3 Doug Holdhusen**
- 3/5 Alex Bryant**
- 3/5 Frances Willms**
- 3/8 Courtney Cover**
- 3/10 Alex Naud**
- 3/12 Chris Caldwell**
- 3/12 Denise Maner**
- 3/12 Jack Rollins**
- 3/14 Brian Trost**
- 3/15 Samuel Brown**
- 3/15 Jameson Bryant**
- 3/16 Steve Howard**
- 3/19 Josh Freligh**
- 3/21 Linda Gawthorne**
- 3/21 Victoria Paez**
- 3/22 Lynn Benner**
- 3/22 Ken Petrbock**
- 3/27 Ian Fitzpatrick**
- 3/27 Stephan Joseph**
- 3/28 Garrett McGee**
- 3/30 Ingrid Fuelleman-Ramos**
- 3/30 Pat Nell**

