



January 2020
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Pastor Pam's Pennings

Happy New Year! As we begin 2020, I would like to invite you to celebrate a few moments on New Year's Eve in a different way by lighting 7 candles – they can be any random candles you have at your house – or perhaps a special set of 7 that you would use each year from now on at your home. It's a simple litany, beautiful and hopefully meaningful. I've adapted it from *Shine on, Star of Bethlehem*, which was compiled by Geoffrey Duncan.

Light the first candle. We(I) light this candle remembering the children who were baptized this past year. It beams that all children may be able to grow up receiving affection and protection. Thus says God: *Fear not for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name, you are mine.* Isaiah 43:1

Light the second candle. We (I) light this candle bearing in mind all those who have celebrated wedding anniversaries this year; those who are newly married, and those who have celebrated silver and golden jubilees. *God is love and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in them.* I John 4:16

Light the third candle. We (I) light this candle remembering all those who have passed away this year, all for whom we (I) have mourned and we continue to mourn. It illuminates their final way to the eternal home. *If we live we live for the Lord. If we die we die for the Lord. But, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.* Romans 14:8

Light the fourth candle. We (I) light this light commemorating all the people, near or far, who had to live under wars and have suffered violence and anxiety. What they have suffered and endured, need your nearness, your comfort and your hope: *And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.* Matthew 28:20

Light the fifth candle. We (I) light this candle recollecting all the marvelous things we have experienced in the past year. For greater and smaller moments. This light beams, in order that we (I) continue to enjoy the fortunes, the happiness and everything else that we (I) have received as a gift from the one who comforts us saying: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.* Philippians 4:4

Light the sixth candle. We(I) light this candle mindful of the people who have committed themselves, very much, even put their lives at risk, for the sake of maintaining freedom and reconciliation and for facilitating living and working together without giving way to violence and hatred. It burns for those who have not lost hope even in the midst of experiences of powerlessness and suffering. *For certainly I know the plans I have for you, plans for welfare and not for evil and I give you a future and a hope.* Jeremiah 29:11.

Light the seventh candle. We (I) light this seventh candle with everyone in mind, bearing each other in our (my) strengths and weaknesses, anxieties and hopes. This candle reminds us (me)of the ways we(I) have gladly gone through, and reminds us (me)of the paths where we(I) didn't want to go. May it continue to shine for each and every one of us in the coming year so that we will be able to say: *Commend your ways to the Lord and hope in him, he will make them good.* Psalm 37:5

There are so many wonderful things in store for our congregation this year. I pray these few minutes of prayerful, light-filled contemplation will set our feet firmly in the path that God intends for each of us in 2020.

+Blessings+ Pastor Pam Challis



Greetings!

Happy New Year, my friends. It is hard to believe I am beginning my fourth year as your Worship and Music Director. It truly has been a blessing for me. I hope you all loved the Youth Christmas concert, as well as the CL Christmas Concert and holiday services. Everyone worked hard on the music, the preparations, decorations, et al. Thank you!!!!



Youth Music News!!!!

Musicmakers starts back January 8th. They were adorable at their concert and I am looking forward to starting the next level of their classes.

Outreach Youth Band took a short break after Christmas and is starting back up again this month. We had a blast at the concert. They rock!

The Music Teams are starting back this week after a short post-Christmas break. Their hard work and dedication was on display this past holiday season. Thank You!

Worship Report: Nothing new to report other than please consider helping out on Altar Guild and/or as a Worship Assistant...and please check the flower chart and consider filling in any empty weeks so we always have fresh flowers on Sundays.

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

Your humble Director,

Brian Madigan

A note from our intern, Natalie Loepke...

I dreamed of traveling to the West Coast for a very long time, especially the Los Angeles area always seemed magical to me from afar. I am very grateful for Pastor Pam who gave me the opportunity to live and work in Long Beach for three months. During my first two days at Christ Lutheran Church I already met many new people and everyone was so welcoming which left me a little overwhelmed. I am looking forward to get to know the children and youth in the congregation and figure out some fun projects I could do with them!

I feel like this church is the perfect place for me to get to know some different congregational structures than what I used to know from Germany - as far as I can tell by now, the people here are very helpful and will give me a lot of amazing experiences while I'm here.

I live in the south of Berlin together with my boyfriend, we both study at the same university (Evangelische Hochschule Berlin). I am studying congregational education and I hope to work at a church as a youth director in the future (only little over a year I will hopefully have my bachelors degree). When I'm not at uni, I love making music, I play the flute, piano and guitar and I also sing. We had some bands going on in my home congregation when I was younger where we played a diverse range of church songs but also rock songs such as Nirvana. That was a lot of fun - but in general church in Germany is starting to become more and more of a place for old people to be, not many young adults attend church. And whole Berlin itself is a very non-religious city, when everyone seems to be spiritual instead. I hope that someday I'll be able to make church an attractive place for young adults by starting some projects they're really interested in.

Natalie Loepke



Preschool News

We started December off with a special performance called the "Conservation Caper" put on by the National Theater for Children. They came to the school on December 2nd to perform for the kids and teach them about recycling and conservation. The kids really enjoyed the show!

December 5th was our annual Pajama Day event. We used this as a Disney Family Outreach project this year to try to earn Disneyland tickets for our auction. We collected 75 pairs of pajamas and 145 books. We combined those with the Church donations and had a family deliver them to Lutheran Social Services for them to pass out at their Christmas party on the 14th. They were truly appreciative of our generosity. Thank you to everyone that participated and helped in making someone's Christmas special this year!

Room 4 & 5 students that participate in Music Makers with Mr. Brian performed at the Church Youth concert on Sunday, December 8th. We had about 10 of the preschool families attend.

Our annual Christmas program, "Who Is Coming to Our House" was on Friday, December 13th. 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 Kim the Wednesday prior.

On December 15th we had a special family outing with a Christmas lights tour of Naples on the Big Red Bus. We filled the bus with 50 people and the kids loved being on the "second story" of the bus. What a great way to get in the Christmas spirit! We closed for winter break December 23 through January 1st. School resumes on January 2nd.

We are now planning our 2020 auction which will be on Friday, March 13th at 6pm at The Grand Event Center again. Our theme will be "Boots & Bling...It's a Country Thing". We are in the process of sending out letters to collect donations. Looking forward to this fun-filled event!

Happy New Year!
Lisa Clinton

OWls in the Nest This regular fellowship time is an opportunity to enjoy a potluck meal and conversation. **Make sure to be at the first meeting of 2020 on Thursday, January 9th, at 12:30pm in the conference room.** Please RSVP so that we have enough of the main dish for everyone. Each person who attends is asked to bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. For example, a couple would provide 2 dishes. If you have any questions, please contact **Harriette Probst at 562 430-9448;** leave a message and say that you are from Christ Lutheran.



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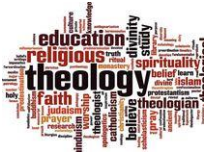


Adult Bible Study meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:15pm in the home

of Phil and Jeanne Peterson. The current study is on *the Book of Acts*. Everyone is invited and welcome to join. Please contact Phil or Jeanne for more information, 562 429-3093. **January meetings on the 8th and 22th.**

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Bible 101-Basic Theology meets on the 4th



Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm. We will be reading the book, *Silence is Not the Answer* by George Johnson and discuss it together. **All are welcome on January 27th.**

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Men's Bible Study Meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:15 in the evening. **The**

January meeting is on the 13th. Men of all ages are welcome.

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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.



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The Sons of Norway meet in CLC's Social Hall at noon on the second Saturday of each month. **January's meeting is on Saturday, the 11th.**

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will meet on the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30pm. Please join us on the 27th of January. No experience necessary; we will teach you.

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members at Home or in Care Centers:

Justin Bartlow, Judy Haenn and Ione Marchael.

Those struggling with illness or other

concerns: Ruth Barnes, Daniel Howard, Donna Johnson, the Joseph family, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Cathy Westwood, Gary and Linda Zimmerman.

Family & Friends: Gladi Adams, Jeri Cooper Alacano, Marilyn Armstrong, Ralph Bender, Casey Benning, Leah Blakeman, Anjella Booth, Wynn Burkard, John Byron, Clara & John Caldwell, Dawnie Campbell, Charlie and David Corm, Noah and James Dodd, the Ford family, Dale Garner, Malcom Gay, Alberta Gray, Robert Hammersley, Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoenig, Bill Horner, Leslie Hoskins, Russ Hoxie, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Justin Irwin, Rev. George Johnson, Doris Jung, Mary Keenan, Tom Kelly, Katrina Lahr, Terry Lord, Ian Ollie, Joyce Pressler, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Gracie Reeder, Sharon, Sue Schlaf, Jim Strader, the Titus family, Teri & Andrew Urenda, Anna Watt-Morse, Tristan Weisel, Jenny and Steve.

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, Gene Chen, Rachel & Victor Colon, Michael Cote, Aaron Crayton, William Eaton, Damian Ellsworth, Nicholas Flournoy, Gabriel Gallegos, Richard Gallegos, Chandler Hoover, John Lamberton, 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, Dominic Vancini, Jonah Westcott & Collin White.



- 1/2 Beverly Koenen**
- 1/2 Jared Petrbock**
- 1/5 Bary Schlieder**
- 1/7 Kristine Trost**
- 1/9 Matthew Green**
- 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**

Enjoy a Safe Holiday Season

Holiday safety is an issue that burns brightest from late November to mid-January, when families gather, parties are scheduled and travel spikes. Take some basic precautions to ensure your family remains safe and injury-free throughout the season.

12 Ways to Stay Safe:

1. Drive Safely

Prepare your car for winter and keep an emergency preparedness kit with you.

2. Light Safely

Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.

3. Plant Safely

Keep potentially poisonous plants – mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis – away from children and pets.

4. Burn Safely

Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over, and out of reach of children and pets.

5. Keep Trees Safely

Make sure your tree has a stable platform and keep it away from heat sources.

6. Cook Safely

Use a food thermometer to make sure meat is cooked to a safe temperature.

7. Store Food Safely

Refrigerate hot or cold leftover food within two hours of being served.

8. Fry Turkeys Safely

The National Safety Council discourages the use of turkey fryers at home and urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments or consider using an oil-less turkey fryer.

9. Give Safely

Be cautious about toys that have button batteries or magnets, which can be harmful or fatal if swallowed. For children under 10, avoid toys that must be plugged into an electrical outlet.

10. Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide detectors save lives. Every year, over 400 people die and 50,000 are treated for carbon monoxide poisoning.

11. Avoid Injuries While Enjoying the Winter Weather

Whether you are skiing, snowboarding, sledding or skating, take safety precautions like learning basic skills and using the appropriate gear for the sport.

12. Get Your Flu Shot

Doctors recommended everyone 6 months and older gets vaccinated against the flu.