



Pastor Pam's Pennings

March 2020
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They shall take away the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it; Numbers 4:13

Who knew that the color purple was associated with ashes from the earliest days of Judaism? It is in ashes that we begin our Lenten journey. On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ashes and hear these words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." I often recall those times when I have felt like the words of that old spiritual, *sometimes I feel like a motherless child, a long way from home.*

In Lent we dress the church in the color purple. Purple is used for two reasons: firstly because it is associated with mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion, and secondly because purple is the color associated with royalty, and celebrates Christ's resurrection and sovereignty.

Our midweek Lenten services this year will focus on simple everyday objects. These ideas came from the book *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield. Each week we will think about things like: dust and ashes, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, towels, and thorns. Easter Sunday is the conclusion of this journey and we will be talking about...stones!

Please come at 11:30 am or 7pm each Wednesday of Lent. The 11:30 service ends with soup at noonish. The 7pm service begins with soup at 6pm. The soup is always great and the conversation is even better than the soup!

The month of March also marks our month of the Capital Campaign. Phyllis Wiederhoeft will be here on March 1 to kick us off as she preaches and prepares us. She will be here to conclude our Capital Campaign on Palm Sunday, April 5. I hope you are in prayer already for those women and men who have agreed to help with this campaign. And, I hope you are in prayer as a family as to what you will be giving to make this campaign successful for the future of our congregation!

God is in the blessing business! We will be blessed because of your incredible generosity! I am so proud of us – we are the 3rd most generous congregation in the whole synod – I have the statistics to prove it from the synod treasurer, Mike Metzger.

Blessed Lent!

Pastor Pam Challis



Greetings!

It has been three months and I finally know what my resolution will be this year: I will no longer procrastinate and take three months to figure out my resolutions...there, that was simple enough! Maybe next year I will actually have a resolution, but for now I am resolved to continue resolving my past resolutions.

Kidding aside! I usually only have a New Year's Resolution once every few years, but when I do, I usually make it a permanent part of my daily schedule. It has been around 16 years since I started leaving an open Bible on the kitchen counter, and still to this day, I make sure I start the day by reading a short passage for daily inspiration. Please join us this Lenten season as we begin our yearly spiritual journey to the cross.

Youth Music News!!!!

Musicmakers are meeting on Wednesdays from 3:30-4:15. They are learning new instruments and having a blast.

Outreach Youth Bands are primarily made up of home-schooled children, who are starting a busy section of their home studies. With that said, they will start back up when they can fit it in their schedule.

The Music Teams are all ready for **Lent**. Please consider joining us seasonally for choir and/or Handbells.

Worship Report: Nothing new to report other than considering helping out on Altar Guild and/or as a Worship Assistant...and please check the flowers 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...

This is my last newsletter article - that sounds very dramatic. My time in Long Beach is almost over ... for now! Because I'm already planning on coming back to this beautiful place! I imagined it to be very beautiful but it turned out even better than I thought! I can't believe how lovely everyone is, I really met some amazing people here and I will never forget about you all and the whole congregation!

I think we can all be very grateful to have Pastor Pam in our lives! I cannot thank her enough for making this whole experience possible for me, but not only that: she took me to many, many places and events and I had so many wonderful conversations with her. I learned a lot in the past twelve weeks, I did this very scary thing of taking a plane for 20 hours all by myself to a place where I don't know anyone. And I'm leaving as a person who has friends in the US - how cool is that?!

I've been to four states in three months (California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah) and three National Parks. It felt unreal to see famous places like the Hollywood sign and Santa Monica Pier in real life.

Thanks to all of you who chatted with me after Sunday Service, it was my pleasure meeting you! I'm sad I couldn't stay here for a couple of more months, I fell in love with Long Beach and I even understand Fahrenheit now. I'll be back within the next five years, mark my words!

I will miss you when I'm back in Germany.

Your girl from Berlin with love ♡

Natalie Loepke



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 auction entitled, **"Boots &Bling...It's A Country Thing"** which will be on **Friday, March 13th at 6pm at The Grand**. Feel free to wear country chic and have a fun night out while supporting CLP! We will have around 60 silent auction items, a Lasso Lotto game and wine pull. Dinner will be BBQ Beef Brisket, Mac 'n cheese, corn on the cob, Cobb salad, and apple crisp for dessert. We will have music playing during dinner and guests are welcome to do a little line dancing. We will then have our 50/50 raffle, live auction, and 'fund an item' to raise money for new flooring in the classrooms. Tickets are \$45 each and will be available for purchase after Church on Sundays through March 1st or you can contact the preschool office at (562) 594-6117 or info@clplb.com. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 6th.



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.

Wishing you a beautiful Spring!
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 meeting on Thursday,**

March 12th, 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.

March meetings on the 11th & 25th.

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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 March 24th.**

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Men's Bible Study

Meets on the second Monday of each month at **7:15 in the evening.** The **March meeting is on the 9th.** 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. March's meeting is on Saturday, the 14th.

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will meet on the **4th Monday** of the

month at 6:30pm. Please join us on the **23rd of March.** No experience necessary; we will teach you.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members at Home or in Care Centers: Justin Bartlow, Judy Haenn, Ione Marchael and Carol Price.

Those struggling with illness or other concerns: Ruth Barnes, Daniel Howard, the Joseph family, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Cathy Westwood, Gary and Linda Zimmerman.

Family & Friends: Gladi Adams, Jeri Cooper Alacano, Marilyn Armstrong, Ralph Bender, James Boner, Wynn Burkard, John Byron, Clara & John Caldwell, Charlie and David Corm, Gable Cross, Noah Dodd, Rex Endrizza, Malcom Gay, Alberta Gray, Evie Holdhusen, Bobbie Hoenig, Bill Horner, Leslie Hoskins, Russ Hoxie, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Justin Irwin, Kylie Jackson, Rev. George Johnson, Ward Jones, Doris Jung, Mary Keenan, Tom Kelly, Liz Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Pam Mitchell, Ian Ollie, Joyce Pressler, Joe Prieuer and family, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Debbie Reighard, Sharon, Mary Kathryn Rivera, Liz Stark, Jenny, the Titus family, Kim Tuer, Anna Watt-Morse, Tristan Weisel, 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, 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-Karsten, 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.



- 3/1 Shaun Murray**
- 3/2 Sara Benoit**
- 3/2 Derek Johnson**
- 3/3 Angie Freligh**
- 3/3 Doug Holdhusen**
- 3/3 Lara Kurutz**
- 3/5 Frances Willms**
- 3/11 Jameson Stamer**
- 3/12 Chris Caldwell**
- 3/12 Denise Maner**
- 3/12 Jack Rollins**
- 3/14 Brian Trost**
- 3/15 Samuel Brown**
- 3/16 Steve Howard**
- 3/19 Josh Freligh**
- 3/21 Linda Gawthorne**
- 3/22 Lynn Benner**
- 3/22 Ken Petrbock**
- 3/27 Stefan Joseph**
- 3/28 Garrett McGee**
- 3/30 Ingrid Fuelleman-Ramos**



This is Church. Welcome Home! *Seeing with 2020 Vision* is here! Plan on participating in **This is Church. Welcome Home!** to energize and build your support of God's mission. Having welcoming facilities enables us to serve God, our existing members, the community, and the world with a stronger, more vibrant presence.

The goal of \$500,000 for building improvements over the next three years will enable Christ Lutheran to provide wonderful places of worship and renew our hope as we put into action the years of planning, making Christ Lutheran Church the place where people may come to faith and where that faith can be passed on.

Small **gatherings** are scheduled to give you more details and to alert you to ways you can give financially to support

This is Church. Welcome Home! Find one that fits your schedule and sign up! The first gathering is at the Green's home on **Thursday, March 5 @ 7pm**. The second gathering will be hosted by the Burkard's on **Monday, March 7 @7pm** at church (this will take the place of the Men's Bible study). The third gathering is scheduled on **Sunday, March 15** after worship and will be hosted by the Challis'. The fourth gathering is scheduled for **Monday, March 23 @ 7pm** at Doug Holdhusen & DJ Trujillo's home.

There will be other ways to participate – Ten Days of Prayer, Prayer Vigil, Mission Talks and above all, your prayers and discernment for your gift. Then plan on being at worship on **April 5 — Commitment Sunday** – when we will receive everyone's pledges and celebrate coming to together to be God's Church.