

TABLE TALK

APRIL 1ST, 2022

Christ the King Lutheran Church
1301 Mowry Ave.
Fremont, CA 94538
Office: (510) 797-3724
E-mail: ctkfremont@sbcglobal.net



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Saints!

Sometimes, important voices aren't being heard. Voices of people with real knowledge about the topic at stake. Often, those voices are voices of women. And our bible isn't an exception. While I had theoretically known that for a long time, it became much more evident when reading "Mary Magdalene Revealed" with our book club during the past 2 months. The book shares the story of Mary Magdalene, the woman Jesus loved dearly. And it explores the reasons why we know so little about her when she was so important to Jesus. Plus, what we know doesn't seem to paint her in a favorable light.

The answers are the ones one might expect: It's all about power, even among the earliest apostles. It's about controlling the narrative. It's about Peter's envy that Jesus told Mary more than him. As a woman there was not much Mary could do back then. She tried telling her story,



she even wrote it down. Just for her Gospel to be mostly destroyed in the centuries after.

As most of you are aware, there are many voices in our neighborhood right now, many opinions about who is a neighbor, who can be trusted and what a church should do. In the past 4 weeks we have received many angry emails by neighbors infuriated that we want to host unhoused neighbors in their cars overnight for one month. Others wrote to us in support. Yet, there are some other voices that haven't been listened to as much. The voices of our unhoused neighbors. One of them reached out to me via phone. She shared how hard it is to read the hateful comments on Nextdoor about "people like her". How important it is for her, as a single woman, to have a safe space at night. Most times she lacks that. Most importantly, she shared that she has been a neighbor in our area for many

years. First housed, then unhoused. Always a neighbor. “We are already here,” she said. “We are just invisible to most people.”

As lent comes to an end and hope and resurrection will hopefully take over our hearts, may we listen to the voices that often aren’t heard. May we open our

hearts and souls to the marginalized and listen to their hopes and needs as we proclaim our hope to them in words and deeds.

Blessings,

PASTOR TIA!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S CORNER

April is a time of change: Winter becomes Spring, the weather seems to change day by day, and Lent moves past Easter to celebrate Jesus Christ’s resurrection and our redemption. We even changed our clocks!

At our recent neighborhood meeting to talk about our Safe Parking Program, I made the point that we do not have a large membership, we do not have “deep pockets”, but we do have a parking lot. As a church we are doing what we can to help the unhoused population, who are also our neighbors. It may be a drop in the bucket, but if enough drops fall into the bucket from many sources, we just may fill it up.

One thing that has not changed is this congregation’s commitment to following our Savior’s example to reach out to those less fortunate than us. Thank you for that commitment.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Sepeda

Council President

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Kris Adams, Cam Bauer, Alan Claassen, Melinda Kufeld, Linda Paschal, Pastor Tia Pelz, and Debbie Pollak

SAFE PARKING UPDATES

As most of you know the prospect of the Safe parking pilot program has been met with mixed emotions in our neighborhood. Flyers with misleading information have been widely distributed. We apologize to anyone who had unpleasant encounters with some of those advocating against our program.

On March 30th we hosted a community meeting in our sanctuary in partnership with the City of Fremont, law enforcement and partners from other churches. Thanks to everyone who came or tuned in via Zoom. It was an intense meeting with lots of emotions, lots of frustration over how safety concerns and issues with unhoused people have been dealt with in the past by officials. There was also the acknowledgment that those grievances aren't directly connected with the Safe Parking Program. We will continue the conversation in smaller groups and one-on-one.

Thanks to the people from CTK and Rene from HTLC who stuck around after the meeting to engage more with neighbors and to listen to their worries, and input. While the agitated voices dominated the conversation there were several neighbors who wanted to learn more and want to volunteer and help with the program. I also received very encouraging emails afterwards from neighbors.

Jim, Alan and I have been working with our attorney and the City of Fremont about clarifying some things in the MOU and we are moving forward nicely.

We still hope to host for the month of June.

To register as a volunteer please send an email to Jerry at specialprojects@citysere.org.

Pastor Tia

ACTS FOR VITALITY

We attended our second workshop with Pastor Tita from the synod and our sister churches on March 6th. It was a great opportunity, talking to people in other congregations and addressing ways of being church together.

As for our congregation we plan to update you on at least a monthly basis during and after worship. While we are a team of 4, we cannot move forward without you. This is your congregation, and we want to hear from you! On April 24th we will therefor have a short Temple Talk on some ideas. It's also the Sunday of our next meeting with the synod and the other churches which we will host at CTK.

FIRE REPAIRS UPDATE

At long last, the new cabinets were installed this past weekend in the Sacristy and in the printer room. They turned out very nice but we still need the counters. Hoping that can be done fairly quickly so we can at last say, *the project is complete*.

BOOK CLUB BEGINS NEW READING

We completed our book on Mary Magdalene last week and we will begin discussions after Easter on our new book, [Everything Happens for a Reason](#) by Kate Bowler. See the Upcoming Events section for dates and more information. Here is a review of the book by Kirkus Reviews, a professional literary agency:

A touching tale of battling cancer set against the backdrop of the prosperity gospel. Bowler (Duke Divinity School; *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel*, 2013), a specialist in the study of the prosperity gospel, found her life turned upside down in her mid-30s with a diagnosis of stage 4 colon cancer. Here, she chronicles her journey from what seemed a death sentence to a lifestyle of living from one medical test to another, surviving as a result of the effects of a clinical trial and a stalwart community of friends and family.

Throughout, the author delivers raw emotion, realistic description, and candid assessments, and she weaves in references to the faith system she has studied and, indeed, of which she has become a community member. Bowler points out the ironies of fighting a deadly battle against her own body while relating to a strand of Christianity that teaches that faith, holiness, and confidence will provide any sort of blessing or healing the believer needs. From Oprah to Osteen, Bowler examines the effects of such preaching upon people of faith, including the depth of turmoil that true tragedy often brings.

The author sees her cancer story unfold in liturgical terms, using Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time to explain her journey. Ultimately, in Ordinary Time (the bulk of the church year), she discovers the power of being present in life, enjoying her family, and finding meaning where she is able. Bowler's reflections will speak to those who have suffered similar illnesses and existential crises, and secondary themes abound: the inhumane and often emotionless face of modern health care, the capacity of family and close friends to give of themselves through love and generosity, the well-meaning but foolish things that people say to those who are living with serious health issues, and more. An inspiring story of finding faith—in God, in family, and in oneself—while walking close to the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

Prayer Service in a Time of War

Several area ELCA congregations are coming together for a “Prayer Service in a Time of War” in response to the ongoing violence in Ukraine. This service will be held on Tuesday, April 12th at 7pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livermore and will include prayer, scripture, and song. These are turbulent times, and this is one way we can come together for healing in our world. You are welcome to attend in-person or it will be live-streamed via YouTube at <https://holycrosslivermore.org/livestream>.



Holy week at CTK

Celebrating communion

Contemplating losses and fears

Rejoicing in hope



<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7PM Worship at CTK in-person and via Zoom with HTLC and HRLC
<i>Good Friday</i>	4-5PM Stations of the Cross in CTK's parking lot (We still need some volunteers to help with the stations! Reach out to pastor or Dana!) 7PM Tenebrae Services at Holy Redeemer and Holy Trinity in-person and Zoom
<i>Holy Saturday</i>	6:30PM Virtual Easter Pageant at HRLC in-person (meet stars like Jim Sepeda, Toni, Theo, Philipp and Tia Pelz et al. from HTLC, CTK and HRLC) or click here to attend via Zoom.
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	10:15AM Worship Service at CTK in-person + via Zoom, afterwards Easteregg hunt at HTLC

World Premier - Virtual Choir

Pastor Tia's colleague and friend Francisco Herrera wrote a beautiful hymn for Good Friday. And together with people from the ELCA churches in Tri-City we want to sing this hymn for the first time! If you are interested in recording a short video, please let Dana know and she will send you the music and recordings. Videos will be due by April 6th and to be submitted to Pastor Barbara at holyredeemer@hrlc-newark.org.

In our Thoughts and Prayers

Austin Alaniz, Rose Archibald, Judy Castro, **Sheila Cooper and the Cooper family**, Ellie David, Roger Fajman, Gary Gardner, Paul Gerboth, Hank & Sylvia Hanson, Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Jan Kerbel, Don D. Ketcham III, Bob Kufeld & his family, Bob Lawrence, Christi Loveland, **Chris O'Halloran**, Emma Kate Rinker, Angelica Ruiz, **Marge Sanford** (friend of Debbie Ward), Doug Sepeda, Jeremy Strain (Pat Cote's nephew) and his family, Mark Sullivan, **Debbie Ward**, Betty Wargo

April Anniversaries

Tony and Veronica Pang, April 3rd (28)

April Birthdays

Patricia Bauer	April 2 nd	John Nelson	April 17 th
Rose Anne Lawrence	April 9 th	Sarah Ward	April 20 th

Other Upcoming Events / Announcements

SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING Wednesday, April 6th at 10AM via CTK Zoom. The Safe Parking meeting with our neighbors will be on the agenda. Join our lively discussion from your home chair!

SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING Monday, April 18th at 6PM via CTK Zoom

JESUS AND JUSTICE Tuesday, April 18th at 7PM, [click here](#) via Zoom.

LUNCH BUNCH Wednesday, April 20th, 1PM at Jack's in Newpark Mall. Gather with us as we share fellowship and celebrate our CTK birthdays. Cost is your order plus tax and 20% gratuity. Contact [Kris Adams](#) (510 468-8709) to RSVP.

TRI-CITY VOLUNTEERS FOOD BANK Tuesday – Friday, 9AM to 3PM drop-off times @ 37350 Joseph Street, Fremont, for urgently needed items:

- Bottled Water (16.9 oz. or Smaller)
- Individually Wrapped Beef Sticks/Jerky
- Canned goods and packaged foods (No dented cans and no items past their expiration date)
- **No frozen food**
- Brown Paper Grocery Bags used for food distribution

PASTOR'S VACATION Pr Tia's spring break aka vacation: April 1-8. In a spiritual emergency please contact Pr Barbara (holyredeemer@hrlc-newark.org) or Pr Tim (therevbaddog@gmail.com).

CTK BOOK CLUB via Zoom Thursdays, 10-11AM. We completed our book on Mary Magdalene last Thursday, (3/24). We will continue studying the Sunday Gospel on Thursday, 4/7. We will **not meet on Maundy Thursday**. We will begin discussions on our new book (see above) after Easter on Thursday, 4/21. Please join us! CTK can help with purchasing the book; please contact Pastor Tia, Patricia Bauer, or Dana Brambley for more information.

Reminder about e-mail addresses and your contacts list

Remember to double check the e-mail address of any mail you want to send. You may have deleted or changed an e-mail address in your Contacts List but old e-mail addresses can still pop up when you are sending e-mails. If you want to verify a CTK member's address, please contact Dana.

Please Note: Mimi Bauer's e-mail address is: cmbauer97@gmail.com

2022 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Jim Sepeda, President
Peggy Claassen, Vice-President
Chris O'Halloran, Secretary
Jay Graham, Treasurer
Kris Adams
Bunny Dubel
Terry Pearson
Debbie Ward

CTK STAFF

Rev. Dr. Tia Pelz, *Pastor*
(510) 859-5672
pelztia@gmail.com
Barney Tiller, *Music Director*
Dana Brambley, *Church Secretary / Office Admin*
Debbie Pollak, *Financial Secretary*
Christina Bauer, *Webmaster / Designer*

Table Talk editor: Jason Tiller, jason@starnull.net

Church office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9AM to 1PM

Website: ctkfremont.squarespace.com