

Christ the King Lutheran
Church

1301 Mowry Ave.
Fremont, CA 94538
(510) 797-3724

ctkfremont@sbcglobal.net

August 1, 2020

TABLE TALK



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear workers towards justice and peace!

“Love and faithfulness meet together;

justice and peace kiss each other.” (Psalm 85:10)

Whenever I hear this verse, I think of Gustav Klimt's “The Kiss”. Not sure why, to be honest. Maybe, because it's one of my favorite paintings (and I got to see the original in Vienna). And maybe, because that verse is one of favorite sentences from the Bible. It expresses my deepest hope and desire that one day, one hopefully not too distant day, there will be justice and peace in this world. That one day *“Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and justice looks down from heaven.”*¹² *The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.*¹³ *Justice goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.”* (85:11-13)

Now, if you are an overachiever and just got out your bible to check whether I used the right translation, you will have noticed a slight difference. While all the common English versions talk about “righteousness”, I translated “justice”. Not because I want to change the bible, don't worry. But because I want you to hear what the Hebrew word *tzedakah* actually means here in our today's concept.

“Tzedakah is seen as a form of social justice [...]. It cannot be done **to** someone – rather, it must be done **with** someone.”²¹ Tzedakah does not mean patronizing help, but real work towards social justice.

And what about peace in the Hebrew Bible? In English, ‘peace’ is generally used to mean an absence of (or freedom from) conflict. However, *peace* (*shalom*) is deeper than this freedom from conflict – it also involves people living in good relationships with those around them, with creation and with God. Experiencing *shalom* means experiencing balance, well-being, wholeness, prosperity, security and justice. No justice, no peace. It's the most biblical chant during protests. I love it. Peace, like justice, is an act. We are required to do justice and to make peace. As long as there is no justice and peace for all we are required to act. And we at Christ the King do.

¹ <https://www.learningtogive.org/resources/jewish-philanthropy-concept-tzedakah>

We are excited to announce our upcoming **Racial Justice Activation Circle** to start in September 2020. It will be 8 weeks of learning, reading, listening. 8 weeks of meeting in small groups once a week on Zoom to reflect what we've



learned and to share our stories. 8 weeks of coming up with ideas how to intentionally thrive for racial justice in our deeply hurt country. How to fight the original sin of us humans: To be better than others, even if it's God himself. Even if the cost of this challenge is to leave paradise.

To one day return to paradise is God's wish for us. That we one day will live in peace, that justice will be served, and that love will reign. Doing this work means that we uphold or affirmation of baptism where we promised to “strive for justice and peace in all the earth”. Do you want to be a part of this work? Great! More information will follow soon on our NEW (!) website.

Wishing you a peaceful month, Pastor Tia!

Know someone who needs extra help during this time?

Please leave a message at the office (510) 797-3724 or contacting Pastor Tia at (510) 859-5672.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Many thanks to go around for all who volunteer in their various roles at CTK as well as all who assist to allow us to continue together with worship and in our many ministries for our congregation and the community. You are amazing!

Pastor will be returning from her well-deserved vacation August 14th. Many thanks to Jim Sepeda serving as Worship Leader and for his sermons on July 19th and upcoming August 9th. Pastor Barbara Caine of Holy Redeemer Church in Newark and Carla Halyard (Lay Pastor - City of Refuge United Church of Christ, Oakland) will preach the remaining Sundays that Pastor Tia is gone. Also,

thanks to the behind the scenes volunteer tech team that spends many hours to put the Worship service together and assist in all of our Zoom meetings – Jim Sepeda, Patricia Bauer, Bob Kufeld, Alan Claassen and Christy Bauer – we could not do this without them! Dave and Bunny Dubel volunteered to lead the Zoom Bethesda Get Together and Devotions in Pastor's absence which is greatly appreciated as well.

Yours in Christ,

Peggy Claassen, President



FIRE REPAIR PROGRESS 7-30-2020

COVID-19 UPDATE & WORSHIP

The results of Pastor's informal survey were mixed; we will be exploring how to incorporate perhaps some small group alternative/supplement to our Sunday worship service. Worship Service will continue via Zoom on **Sunday mornings at 10:15** am. Stay tuned...

FIRE REPAIRS/GAS LINE REPLACEMENT UPDATE

The good news this month is that the gas line repairs have been inspected and approved by the City, completed by the contractor and will be released by PG&E on August 3rd. The paving contractor was able to backfill and cap the trench with concrete so no more cones in the parking lot! Minor cleanup is still needed.

As for the fire repairs, rough framing, sheer wall and roof sheeting passed City inspection. The windows are currently being installed. The exterior door has arrived as well and will be scheduled for installation soon. The exterior water proofing membrane is next on the list. Additional plans need to be submitted to the City for the electrical and mechanical improvements concurrent with the work being performed. Still aiming for November completion.

Questions? Contact Peggy.

NEW CTK WEBSITE

New website but same address for your convenience:
<http://www.CTKfremont.org>

Check it out!

Thanks to CTK Webmaster/Developer Christina Bauer and a group of dedicated volunteers (Kris Adams, Patricia Bauer, Melinda Kufeld and Wendy Wolfe Vis along with Pastor Tia) the new CTK website has launched. In addition to updated content and better connectivity, the Squarespace platform will better suit our needs as we move forward.

2020 “BACKPACK” PROJECT

As we’ve discussed, this year’s “backpack” project will look very different than previous years due to COVID-19. The Social Ministry Team has been working with the Tri-Cities’ school districts as well as other agencies to identify technology support needs and coordinate efforts. More information is expected soon. We are continuing to accept financial donations in anticipation of receiving this information.

Donations to the “Backpack” project can be made directly to CTK – send checks to 1301 Mowry Ave. Fremont, CA 94538.

In the meantime, The Kiwanis Club of Fremont Foundation & the Fremont Unified School District are having a “**Stuff the Bus**” event hosted by Walmart on 8/15 at 40580 Albrae St. in Fremont on August 15th from 10 am-4:00 pm if you have regular school supplies you would like to donate. In addition, CTK will be donating the \$250 from Thrivent received for school supplies.

DID YOU KNOW? ...

*Speaking of volunteering, we have been very fortunate at Christ the King to have had a very talented individual share his musical gifts with us. **Jason Tiller** has been not only an inspiration for our choir but also has served as handbell musician, soloist, cantor and Musical/Sound Tech Extraordinaire in the age of Zoom. I asked Jason to share with us a bit about his background:*



I am the son of church musicians. I have memories of being in the car as my mother drove through a snowstorm in the Pennsylvania panhandle to conduct Christmas Eve services as well as memories of crawling around on the organ pedals while my dad was practicing. It was natural that I also wanted to be a musician, but after high school I was seduced by the siren call of algorithms and programming a computer to bend it to my will. Although I’ve earned my keep as a computer programmer ever since graduating from college, music has always been part of my life. While I was in high school, I fell in love with handbell ringing, with its unique blend of athleticism, dexterity, and musicality. I owe much of my life to handbells - I met my wife through bells, decided to leave L.A.

and move up to the Bay Area because of bells, and I’ve traveled all over the world... because of bells. But as my mother, a consummate singer, slowly lost herself to Alzheimer’s, I realized I wanted a deeper connection to music than provided by a percussion instrument like bells, and thus I took up singing. I love the feeling of turning breath into vibrations into words into music. I know I will never through voice revisit the heights I achieved on handbells, but I hope that through my singing I can still bring beauty into the world. –*Jason Tiller*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

From Linda Pearson as of 7/30: Today, we celebrate four months since the “Sewing Bees” were born to provide more Community Outreach relief during our Covid-19 Pandemic. Our amazing Christ the King Lutheran Church community and friends continue reaching out to those in need. From the making of fabulous pillow cases for SAVE, the stunning CHEMO Care Bags for HERS, and the ABODE Home-Warming projects to name a few - the hive continues to thrive with respites here and there.

During the four months with this Coronavirus, we’ve created and distributed an outstanding collection of 2040 cotton face masks.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2020 Sierra Pacific Assembly of the ELCA that was supposed to take place this past spring has been postponed to 2021 because of COVID-19. The Bishop, Secretary and Council members will continue to serve until formal elections take place.

STEWARDSHIP 365

Melinda Kufeld has been appointed Chair of the Stewardship Committee and will be moving the Stewardship 365 Program forward – thank you, Melinda! Joining her on the team will be Kris Adams, Cam Bauer, Alan Claassen, Linda Paschal, Debbie Pollak and Pastor Tia. As mentioned in Table Talk last month, this is a new look at Stewardship in a sustainable and diverse fashion, exploring “currencies” beyond money; more in tune with recirculation of our resources throughout the year. The goal is to strengthen CTK and make us more relevant to our community. Stewardship 365 training for the Committee will start via zoom late this month. Stay tuned for more information!



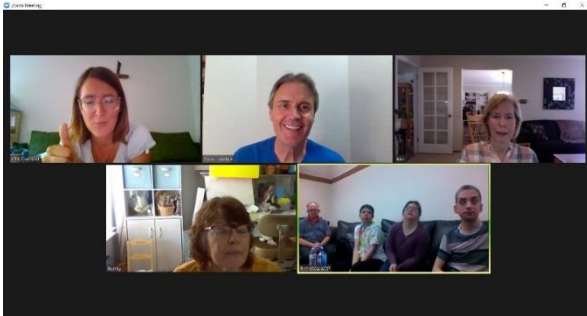
UPCOMING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOK CLUB/BIBLE STUDY: Join us via Zoom on **Thursday mornings, 10:00 – 11:30 am.**

The current book being studied is Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S., by ELCA Pastor Lenny Duncan. Pastor Duncan offers a bold new vision for the ELCA and the broader mainline community of faith.

CTK COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, **August 11th at 7:15 pm** via Zoom.

DEVOTIONS: Pastors Tia, Barbara and Tim will send devotional messages once a week during the summer.



GET TOGETHER AND DEVOTIONS WITH BETHESDA: Join on Zoom **Fridays from 2:30 – 3:00 pm.** for a lively half an hour. Catch up with our friends, sing, dance, listen to a biblical story and pray. All are welcome! Bunny and Dave Dubel will be facilitating on 8/7 and 8/14; Pastor Tia will facilitate on 8/21 and 8/28.

LUNCH BUNCH: **Wednesday, August 12th, at 1:00 pm** via Zoom. BYOLB! (Bring your own lunch and beverage!)

MIDWEEK SOCIAL HOUR: Bring your own beverage of choice, sign in to Zoom and join us for a relaxing social hour in your own home on **Wednesdays (8/5, 8/19 and 8/26) at 7:00 pm.** All are welcome!

(Continued next page)

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Monday, August 3rd, at 6:00 pm via Zoom. (tentative – check website calendar for changes)

ZOOM WORSHIP: Total attendance continues to be strong: 44, 47, 42, and 41 attendees for the respective Sundays in July. Zoom service will continue through the summer (or until further notice) at **10:15 am on Sundays**. Reach out to friends and neighbors as a safe and easy way to share in worship, separate but together.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Eli Adams, Austin Alaniz, Rose Archibald, Ruth Carpizo, Judy Castro, Randy and Sheila Cooper, Roger Fajman, Nikki Jackson, Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Don D. Ketcham III, Christi Loveland, America Manspeaker, Laura McCorkle, Jacob Montoya, Clare Nielsen, Doug Sepeda, and Bob Walter.

Note: Celebration of Life for Marilyn Shaner tentatively scheduled for June of 2021.

August Birthdays

8/14 Janet Holbrook
8/21 Joan Noland
8/24 Judy Castro
8/28 Makenna Vis

Anniversaries

8/6 Valerie & Allen Salisbury (37)
8/14 Gail & John Nelson (54)
8/17 Tia & Phillip Pelz (13)
8/25 Barbara & Joe Allen (59)

While Pastor Tia is away on vacation until 8/14, please contact Pastor Barbara Caine (510) 793-1911 or Pastor Tim Huff (510) 793-6285 for pastoral care.

2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Peggy Claassen, *President*
Bob Kufeld, *Vice-President*
Jay Graham, *Treasurer*
Joe Allen, *Secretary*
Kris Adams
Patricia Bauer
Elena Bryant
Laurel King, *Financial Secretary*
Melinda Kufeld
Terry Pearson

CTK STAFF

Pastor Tia Pelz (510) 859-5672
pelztia@gmail.com
Barney Tiller, *Music Director*
Ina Ketcham, *Church Secretary/Administrator*
Christina Bauer, *Webmaster/Designer*

