

TABLE TALK

DECEMBER 1, 2021

Christ the King Lutheran Church
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PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Saints!

Happy new (church) year! Just, when we are in the darkest time of the year. Cuddling up under blankets with holiday lights and candles turning rooms into cozy spots. When the sun sets at 5 pm and evenings feel strangely long. When hot chocolate tempts us into couch-potatoes – and there is no need to feel bad about it.

I love that this is the time that we are awaiting the birth of Jesus. Not because the darkness needs to end. But because the darkness is such a holy place to be in. Such a holy time. Such a great place to wait for the unknown, knowing that it will be life changing, nevertheless. And yet, for now, we are in darkness. Which helps us see while staying under the radar for just a little longer. Until we are truly ready to enter (back) into this world.

It's a truly holy, a blessed time, this Advent time. A time of anticipation and “not yet”. A time of wonder

and miraculous connections. A time of gingerbread and mulled wine, candles and stories, and the hope that one day, we will see God in everything and everybody. In the darkness, in the stranger, in the unknown future hanging heavily over our lives. That our world will be transcended by love without bragging about it in the world. That whatever the light will show, we have already experienced in the darkness. That there is no binary world. Just God's world, a space for all.



This month, we will finally reopen our sanctuary. A place that has been in the dark for almost 2 years, waiting to host us again. Waiting to be filled with voices and songs and emotions. We have waited so long. In the darkness yet not hopeless. Because we know that God is with us, walks with us through darkness and day, sun dawn and sun set. Because we know that there is no prize to be earned. That we make the way by walking. And that most of that day

will be in the darkness, the holy darkness that comes when we let God lead our ways. When we embrace God's holy night and God's silence. God is with us and is one of us. And sometimes, it's easier to notice that when we are in the darkness. When we don't think that we have full control over our future.

May your Advent be filled with moments of holy darkness and revelations! This song might inspire you:

[Holy Darkness, by Dan Schutte](#)

Pastor Tia

PASTOR TIA!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The End Is Near!!

No, no – not that end – calm down. I am talking about the end of our exile from our church. It has been 25 months since the fire forced us out, and it sometime seemed like 40 years. But, on December 12th we will be having worship service in person in our sanctuary. Pastor Tia and choir have had a sneak preview the last few Sundays broadcasting via Zoom from there. The rest of us will be able to join them and our fellow members on the 12th. We will continue Zoom broadcasting for those who may not be able to join us due to COVID or other concerns.

It is also the end of our calendar year and please remember to attend the Annual Meeting on December 5th at 11:30 via Zoom. The reports and budget to be voted on will be coming via email. Please review before the meeting so you can have any questions ready. You may email me in advance if you wish, or bring them up at the meeting.

Of course for every end there is a beginning, and we are in Advent. The season that heralds the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the King). That will set us up to begin 2022 on a positive note with energy to accomplish even more next year in furthering the message of Peace and Forgiveness.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Sepeda

Council President

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021

Dec 24, 5:30PM: Worship for the entire family in-person (only - no Zoom): participate in an ad-hoc Christmas pageant, sing all of your favorite songs with us, and admire our brand new Nativity scene!

Dec 24, 9:30PM: Contemplative worship via Zoom (only – no in-person worship): a cozy time of praising God during this most special night of the year

Dec 26, 10:15AM: Carols and lessons in-person and via Zoom

CTK IS REOPENING!

Drum roll, *please!* After 2 years, it is *finally* happening! **On Dec 12th** you are welcome to join us for **worship in-person** in our sanctuary at 10:15AM. Please wear a mask. Chairs are spaced out safely. You may also watch the worship via Zoom from your home.

ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP

On the first Sunday in Advent we had a wonderful time making Advent Wreaths, eating goodies, sharing stories and greens and listening to our favorite Advent hymns. A much needed glimpse into the times to come when we will be gathering more in-person.

If you missed it, come next year! And, join us for church



Pictures clockwise from top-left:

1. Bunny, Karen, Tori, and Kris.
2. Tori and Jason.
3. At the Abode Vigil.
4. Keith and Melinda.

Sewing Bees Update

Our Sewing Bees project was recognized by the **HERS (Hope, Empowerment, Renewal, Support) Breast Cancer Foundation** for a donation of 500 masks our busy bees produced. The kind note is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Bee Well,

Linda Pearson

December Birthdays

Betty Wargo	12/01	Janice Kerbel	12/03
Cameron Bauer	12/07	Kevin Bauer	12/11
David Dubel	12/17	Veronica Pang	12/27

In our Thoughts and Prayers

Eli Adams, Tina Adams, Austin Alaniz, Rose Archibald, Dennis Ash, Roxie Banks, Dianne Burns, Ruth Carpizo, Judy Castro, Randy and Sheila Cooper, Hank Cote, Kathy Covey (the Lawrence's daughter-in-law), Ellie David, Roger Fajman, Gary Gardner, Hank & Sylvia Hanson, Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Jan Kerbel, Don D. Ketcham III, Bob Lawrence, Christi Loveland, Clare Nielsen, Stan Mieras, Angelica Ruiz, Doug Sepeda, Mark Sullivan, Betty Wargo and Richard Wightman.

Barbara Allen says: Please pray for Ruth Miller and her family in Minnesota; Ruth, a former CTK member, lives with and cares for her ailing mother who is in her 90s. Ruth's brother-in-law, Odell, is suffering from a breakthrough COVID-19 infection, and Ruth's younger sister, Marie, along with two young nephews also have COVID-19.

Kris Adams writes about her mother: Clarice Eileen Nielsen (née Satre) passed on to eternal life on Tuesday, November 16, 2021. She was 92.

Clare grew up in Veblen South Dakota until high school, when the family moved to Phoenix AZ. She made many wonderful friends there, including Beverly Nielsen (Canterbury), who later became her sister-in-law. After high school Clare chose to go to UCLA to pursue a career in physical therapy. In 1950, after she had become a registered physical therapist, Clare married Beverly's big brother, Richard Nielsen. The couple lived in Cupertino, Boulder, Phoenix and finally settled in Fresno, where they spent 52 of their 66 years together.

Initially, Clare worked at Saint Agnes Hospital in Fresno. After a few years however, she decided to open her own PT clinic and became a well-known and respected therapist in the orthopedic community. Eventually she expanded her practice, opening a second clinic which she ran for 14 years until she retired.

In retirement Clare and Dick enjoyed local college sports events as well as concerts and plays. They loved seeing the country in their motor home. The church was always an important part of Clare's life and she and Dick were active members at Hope Lutheran Church in Fresno.



In 2016 The couple moved to Fremont to be closer to me and my brother, David Nielsen. There they became members of Christ the King Lutheran Church. Clare is survived by Kristine, and grandchildren Richard Adams and Julie Toft, and David and grandchildren, Taylor and Jack Nielsen, as well as great grand babies, Eli and Natalie.

Friends and Family are invited to a Memorial service at Hope Lutheran Church, 364 E. Barstow, Fresno, CA, 93710, 2021 on Wednesday December 8 at noon.

LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR SCHEDULE

Dec 12: 5 pm at Joan Noland's

Dec 15th: 5 pm at Terry and Linda Pearson's

Dec 19th: 5 pm at Becky Shaffer's lead by our ministry in context student, Tori

Dec 22nd: 5 pm at Pastor Barbara's

Other Upcoming Events / Announcements

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEETING Monday, November 13th, 6PM via CTK Zoom

LUNCH BUNCH Wednesday, Dec. 15th at 3PM, gather with us at Jack's Brewing Company in the back of the Fremont Hub between Trader Joe's and Michaels as we fellowship and celebrate our CTK birthdays. Cost is your order plus tax and 20% gratuity. Contact [Roseanne Lawrence roseanne111@sbcglobal.net](mailto:RoseanneLawrence111@sbcglobal.net) to RSVP.

LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR IN TRI-CITY We all love Advent, right? And those cute Advent calendars that shorten and sweeten the wait. This year, we invite you to participate in a "Living Advent Calendar". Starting Nov 28th, every Sunday and Wednesday until Christmas Eve, one household will host a gathering in their driveway or front yard at 5 pm. We will sing carols, listen to old and new stories and have time to connect with new and old friends over drinks and goodies. **If you would like to host, contact Pastor Tia or Dana.**

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 AND PULPIT SUPPLY Pr Tia will be on vacation Dec 27th 2021 through Jan 2nd 2022. In a spiritual emergency please contact Pr Barbara or Pr Tim. Pastor Adisa will lead the Jan 2nd, 10:15AM in-person worship service!

CAROLING ON DEC 12TH We will be meeting at the Fremont Hub at 2:30PM to sing 2 songs. You will get your lyrics there. Then, we will split up (if possible) to visit 3-4 places. At 5 pm we will meet at Joan Noland's driveway for more singing and visiting (aka the Living Advent Calendar). If you plan to attend as a singer, please let Pastor Tia or Dana know for better planning. **THANK YOU!**

CTK BOOK CLUB will meet on Thursday, Dec 12th to discuss the devotional handbell distributed at the Advent Wreath making event. Hope you can join us. If you would like to be added to our email list, you can email Debbie Pollak <bartpollak@gmail.com>.

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

2021 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

CTK STAFF

Jim Sepeda, President
Peggy Claassen, Vice-President
Patricia Bauer, Secretary
Jay Graham, Treasurer
Kris Adams
Joe Allen
Terry Pearson
Debbie Ward

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

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Attachments follow



A soft place to fall.

HERS Breast Cancer Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with the mission of supporting all individuals healing from breast cancer by providing post-surgical products and services, regardless of financial status.

Federal Tax ID #94-3309906

HERSBreastCancerFoundation.org

PROGRAM STORES

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Fax 510.505.9160

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5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Ph. 925.416.6738
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Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
2401 Merced St., Ste. 100
San Leandro, CA 94577
Ph. 510.969.7758
Fax 510.969.7881

November 3, 2021

The Sewing Bees
Christ the King Lutheran Church
1301 Mowry Avenue
Fremont, CA 94538

Dear Members of The Sewing Bees,

On behalf of HERS Breast Cancer Foundation's Board and staff, I write to express our deep gratitude for your group's efforts to support our patients over the past two years during a very challenging time.

Your generous donation of over 500 homemade masks, made with skill and love, were distributed to hundreds of grateful HERS breast cancer patients. Your masks help keep our patients safer but also showed them that your faith community cares.

I applaud your efforts to foster compassion and the spirit of giving among your church members and in our community overall. Your collective kindness and love mean the world to us and helped to restore HERS – Hope, Empowerment, Renewal, and Support – to our patients.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tina Fernandez Steckler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tina Fernandez Steckler
Executive Director

Providing HERS - Hope, Empowerment, Renewal, Support - since 1998