



# TABLE TALK

Christ the King Lutheran Church  
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## Pastor's Letter

Aloha. Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

While I was on leave in November, Lynn and I spent two weeks participating in community service projects. Our activities were primarily spent working with island-based organizations responding to the food insecurities on Kauai. While on the island, we worked with Hawaii Food Bank, several Catholic churches, and Lihue Lutheran Church. Our work consisted of repacking bulk food from the Hawaii Food Bank into smaller boxes and bags. We then had the opportunity to distribute the boxes and bags to hundreds of families at food pantries and drive through distribution stations on the island.

The reasons why folks living on an agriculturally fertile island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean struggle with food insecurity are complicated. I have only begun to learn about the interplay between economic, political and social systems, and how land used for a seemingly more lucrative purpose, e.g. tourism, impacts people's ability to obtain proper nutrition at an affordable price. I still have much to learn and by no means have any long-term solutions. But what I do know is that people are hungry now, and we are called to respond.

Our work on the island reminded me of a food related story I heard some time ago. Though not everyone's concept of a heaven, or a hell for that matter, is the same, this story does introduce an interesting aspect of what living in Gods' Kingdom in the here and now and in the great beyond looks like.

*There is an ancient Asian parable about an old man who knew he would die soon. He wanted to know what heaven and hell were like. He visited a wise man in his village to ask, "Can you tell me what heaven and hell are like?" The wise man led him down a strange path, deep into the countryside. Finally they came upon a large house with many rooms and went inside. Inside they found lots of people and many enormous tables with an incredible array of food. Then the old man noticed a strange thing. The people, all thin and hungry were holding chopsticks 12 feet long. They tried to feed themselves, but, of course, could not get the food to their mouths with such long chopsticks. The old man then said to the wise man "Now I know what hell looks like, will*

*you please show me what heaven looks like?" The wise man led him down the same path a little further until they came upon another large house similar to the first. They went inside and saw many people well fed and happy, they too had chopsticks 12 feet long. This puzzled the old man and he asked, "I see all of these people have 12 feet chopsticks too, yet they are well fed and happy. Please explain this to me. The wise man replied, "in Heaven, we feed each other."*

Our transition time at Christ the King is one where we grow more deeply in understanding our individual and collective gifts, and the situation and needs in our community. As we grow in understanding during this time, we grow in learning how we can feed ourselves and feed one another so that we all may rejoice in the spender of God's creation today, tomorrow, and all our days to come.

*Pastor Raymond*



## Council President's Corner



The Advent Season as we prepare for Christmas is very busy and is bringing many changes to CTK. This includes relocation of our Office Administrator/Treasurer, retirement of our Music Director at the end of this year, recruitment of a new Music Director, preparation of the 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Budget both looking back over the previous year and planning for the year to come. Thanks to all who have participated and contributed in the process to enable our Ministry to move forward at Christ the King. This also includes the gift of Supply Pastors that have added to our worship experience and helped us to bond new relationships. And so the transition continues.

Yours in Christ-

*Peggy Claassen, President*



# Church Service Volunteer Opportunities!



Three fun opportunities to share God’s love at church service are currently open:

**Altar Guild:** Weekly preparation of the Sanctuary for church services. The Altar Guild team works on a rotational basis and training will be provided.

**Lectors/Assistants:** Lectors do the readings and Psalms while Assistants help the Pastor to conduct the service. A script is provided.

**Coffee Cart:** Provide fresh water and check supplies for the coffee cart in the Narthex.

Please contact the office at [ctkfremont@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ctkfremont@sbcglobal.net) if you are able to help.



## Cards & Calendars For Abode



Abode would appreciate any spare calendars and greeting cards you have. Residents of Sunrise Village Shelter and other Abode Housing sites enjoy giving cards to their family and friends. You may leave your cards and calendars on the table in the narthex or give them to me.

Thank you!

*Bonnie Immeker*



## Let the Games Begin!

Game time is resuming! After several years of no board and card game time for members and their friends, we are starting up again.

This time the meetings will be in the afternoon and most likely on a Tuesday. The time and date are TBD in the coming weeks. Please talk to Bonnie Immeker, Roseanne Lawrence, Bunny Dubel or Laurel King if you would be intersted in attending. Often played are Dominoes, Five Crowns, Trivia, Kings In A Corner. We are open to other choices too!

The location will probably be the church library or possibly someone’s home. Games are great for keeping active mentally and socially!! Laughing a lot is good for the soul too!

## Kansas, Here We Come!

Office Administrator/Treasurer Dana Brambley will be moving out-of-state in early December. Dana, her husband Brian and two cats will be relocating to Wichita, Kansas from Sunnyvale to a lovely home near family. Although we will miss her smiling face in the office, I am pleased to share that Dana will continue as an employee of CTK. Dana has been a wonderful asset to CTK.



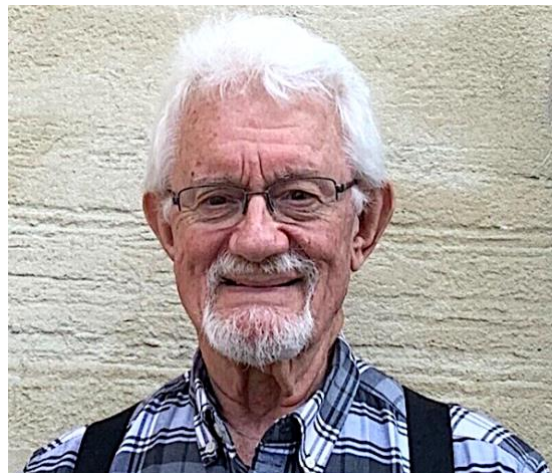
As the pandemic has shown us, remote work is a possibility for most positions and that includes many tasks of the Office Administrator/Treasurer. Dana fortunately has expressed a strong interest in continuing her work for CTK as both Office Administrator and Treasurer in a remote capacity. Adjustments will be made for some tasks that need to stay local (e.g. mail pick-up, printing bulletins, etc.). CTK business will continue to be done through the CTK e-mail address and meetings through CTK zoom. If you have questions, please ask Peggy.

Dana's last day at CTK will be this Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please join us for a send-off after service to thank Dana for her in-person service these past two and a half years and to wish her well on a new chapter for her and Brian as well as celebrate the opening of the Wichita CTK office.



## Thank You, Barney!

Barney Tiller, CTK's Music Director, Choir Director, pianist and organist for the past 4 years will be retiring at the end of 2023. December 31st will be his last official service with CTK but both he and Jason will remain members of CTK. Barney has been an essential part of the CTK worship service planning, blending the music with the liturgy, readings and gospel theme for a given service. We appreciate Barney so much for his 65 years of experience that he has brought to the position and the musical gifts that he has shared – he has truly been a blessing to the CTK community! Barney is looking forward to visiting other churches on his "free" Sundays.



**Help Decorate the  
Sanctuary  
for Christmas  
on Saturday,  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm.**



## **Annual Advent Wreath-Making Workshop**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, ten members of CTK will gather in Carlson Hall for our annual Advent wreath-making workshop. Candles, rings and devotional booklets have been ordered and received without the worrisome delays of past years. We even have a couple of additional wreaths in case there's a last minute wish to participate! 😊 Watch this space in January for photos and a recount of the event. 🧐





# Poinsettias for Christmas Services



Once again we invite you to help decorate the chancel area for our Christmas services!

If you would like to provide a poinsettia, please complete the form attached at the end of this Table Talk and place it in the offering plate *no later than Sunday, December 17th*.



Please bring your poinsettia to church on Sunday morning, December 24th.

Please remember to attach your name to the poinsettia.

All poinsettias can be picked up on Sunday, December 31st after service.



## UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2023 CTK ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING:** On Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, CTK will hold our 2023 Annual Congregation Meeting shortly after worship service. The meeting will be held *in-person only*. Members of CTK will be able to vote only if they attend the meeting.

**CTK BOOK CLUB:** The CTK Book Club has started an Advent Study on CTK Zoom. Study guide booklets are available for free on the usher's table in the Narthex as well as a downloadable PDF version at <https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger>. All are welcome to the hour sessions on Thursdays at 10am for the four weeks of Advent. Please join us for lively discussion focusing on worldwide hunger issues and what part Christians play in the problems and the solutions. Come, learn, share, be inspired to be light for the darkness in the world!

**CTK COUNCIL MEETING:** Tuesday, December 12th at 7:15 pm via CTK Zoom.

**LUNCH BUNCH:** Wednesday, December 13, at 1pm Lunch Bunch will meet at the Olive Garden Restaurant at 39145 Farewell Drive, Fremont. All are welcome; many invite their friends. Plan for at least a 2-hour lunch, as it takes more time with a group. If possible, please bring cash, as separate checks are not always doable. Cost will be your order plus tax and tip.

It was suggested instead of our annual gift exchange this year, we do a used-book exchange. For those who wish to participate, you will bring a book you have read and

are willing to trade. You will then be able to trade for another book that someone else brought. It is not mandatory if you do not wish to participate. Please RSVP to Roseanne Lawrence by December 12th.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING:** Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10am via CTK Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Bunny Dubel.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING:** Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm via CTK Zoom.

**SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEETING:** Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm via CTK Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Immeker.

**TRI-CITY VOLUNTEERS FOOD BANK:** Donations may be dropped off Monday to Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 37350 Joseph Street, Fremont.

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)
- Fresh Fruits and Vegetables from your Garden

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER:**

12/3	Rev. John Bost
12/10	Rev. Adisa Armand
12/17	Rev. John Bost
12/24, <b>10:15am</b>	Rev. Ray Waespi
12/24, <b>9:30pm</b>	Rev. Ray Waespi (Holy Trinity will be holding 4pm & 8pm services as well)
12/31	Rev. Ray Waespi

#### **Reminder about e-mail addresses and your contact list**

Remember to double check the email 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.

### **2023 CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

Peggy Claassen, *President*  
Jim Sepeda, *Vice-President*  
Jan Holbrook, *Council Secretary*  
Dana Brambley, *Treasurer*  
Debbie Pollak, *Financial Secretary*  
Kris Adams  
Bunny Dubel  
Bill Kemp  
Laurel King  
Chris O'Halloran  
Terry Pearson  
Debbie Ward

### **CTK STAFF**

Rev. Raymond Waespi, *Pastor*  
Barney Tiller, *Music Director*  
Dana Brambley, *Office Administrator/Table Talk Editor*  
Christina Bauer, *Webmaster/Designer*

**Attachment:** *Christmas Poinsettia Form*

# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FORM

Once again, we invite you to help decorate the chancel area for our Christmas services!  
If you would like to provide a poinsettia, please complete the form below  
and place it in the offering plate *no later than December 17<sup>th</sup>*.

**Remember to attach your name to the poinsettia.**

**PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CASH OR CHECK!**

I will bring \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia plant(s) to the church  
the morning of December 24th.

For Bulletin:

Given by:

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In honor of:

---

*and/or*

In memory of:

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**All poinsettias can be picked up on Sunday, December 31st after service.**

