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TABLE TALK



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear socially distanced Saints!

How I dislike that phrase. Socially distanced. As an extreme extrovert, it's my worst nightmare. I sometimes wonder how I even made it through the last 10 months. One of the answers is you all, obviously. The other is Zoom. I have to say, there are many things I doubt I would have ever learned about some of you if it wasn't for Zoom. And for our legendary CTK Social Hour on Wednesday nights. (And if you are reading this and feel left out now because you have never been there... get on next Wednesday!)



What makes it so fun and joyful? The people, sure. The drinks without worrying about driving home, maybe. The atmosphere, well, it depends on where you sit in your home. Probably the comfortable mix of all the above. The possibility to opt in, to quickly get a refill or finish dinner while listening to everyone. The chance to hop on and hop off without having to justify yourself. And not matter when you enter the "room",

people are chatting and laughing, sharing stories of hilarious and vulnerable and personal moments in their lives. And distance is no issue at all. It might even help to sit in a safe place at home. Knowing that if you need to cry or scream, there is a mute button right there for you. And a "turn the camera off" button, too.

Really, the only issue with Zoom is that you can't hear anything if everybody is talking loudly at the same time. Which results in everybody shouting until a calm, male voice says: Sorry, I can't understand you. (I won't say names.)

"So **I recommend the enjoyment of life**, for there is nothing better on earth for a person to do except to eat, drink, and enjoy life. So, joy will accompany him in his toil during the days of his life which God gives him on earth." (Ecclesiastes 8:15). By the way, if you need uplifting real-life hacks from the bible, Ecclesiastes is a great go to.

Stay safe, stay blessed, find joy and join us for Social Hour next Wednesday at 7pm,

Pastor Tia!

Thrivent members: Your year-end Choice funds are available for you to designate. You have until March 31 to make your designations, or the funds will be lost. And remember, Christ the King may be selected as one of your choices.

- *Laurel King, Financial Secretary*

Council President's Corner

A New Year brings new energy, new hope, and new resolutions that we all have every intention of keeping this time around. It has also brought our council a “new” group of officers to lead our church. I was honored to be elected President for this term, Peggy Claassen was elected Vice-president, and Patricia Bauer is our new Secretary. Jay Graham and Laurel King will continue in their posts as Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

We have also added a new committee to our list of activities. The Council voted to add a Social Justice Committee as part of our outreach to the community, and our own internal education. This grew out of our Racial Justice Activation Circle from last year and is chaired by Bunny Dubel. Please contact her if you are interested in participating or learning more.

One area of hope we continue to bring forward from 2020 is the completion of our church repair and getting together again in person for worship. Due to delays in inspections and construction approvals the reopening date for our building has been pushed back until at least March. However, we took advantage of the delay and our tech team headed by Alan Claassen has added enhanced internet capability to the building. See page 9 of this Table Talk for current pictures.

Governor Newsom has recently lifted the COVID lockdown and is permitting limited church attendance. However, Alameda County continues to be listed under “purple” guidance. Our Council and Pastor Tia are evaluating what that may mean for our services, but for now we will continue to offer worship via Zoom.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Sepeda, Council President

jrsepeda@comcast.net

Ministry in Context

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary offers pastoral “interns” to congregations through a program called **Ministry in Context**. This is a field education component of the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program that provides students the occasion to explore and discover the joys, challenges, and opportunities for ministry and leadership in congregations and in social ministry agencies. Ministry in Context is concurrent with classroom work and allows the student to apply and contextualize what they are learning and discovering in the classroom.

Christ the King applied for and has been selected to be a Ministry in Context site jointly with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Fremont. **Tori Valcarcel** will be working under Pastor Tia’s and Pastor Tim’s guidance starting on **February 1**.

During these two semesters (Feb – May and Sept – Dec), the student is expected to spend up to six hours per week participating, leading, and observing in the ministries of the congregation. Some examples of what

a student might do range from preaching, worship leadership, pastoral care, community organizing, and meeting facilitation.

Meet Tori Valcarcel:

Grace & Peace to you, the Community of Christ the King Lutheran Church!

My name is Tori Valcarcel, and I am delighted to introduce myself to you all! I will be serving with you through this coming year, and I cannot wait to get to know you all. In the meantime, I'll tell you a bit about myself.

I am a first-year student at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA, where I am pursuing a Masters of Divinity. I am also pursuing candidacy in the ELCA as a rostered minister of Word and Sacrament, through the Delaware-Maryland Synod, where I am currently living. I was born and raised here in Frederick County, MD, and was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Walkersville (ELCA). I graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor's of Science in Behavioral and Community Health (a branch of Public Health) in May of 2018,

and then spent a year living in Atteridgeville, Pretoria (South Africa) through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. After spending another year in discernment and some time as the office administrator at St. Paul's, I applied to PLTS, and in August of last year I began my first semester.



Those are just some basic facts, though- to really give you an idea of who I am, I'll tell you about what is important to me right now. I'm incredibly lucky to have wonderful parents that allowed their adult child to live with them after college (and through a pandemic), along with my younger brother. I have an older brother who lives just outside of Baltimore, and more aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, and adopted family members than could be listed here. I also just adopted my wonderful dog, Moose, in November, and when I am able to move out to Berkeley, he will accompany me. In between reading about Lutheran Theology & Christian Ethics, I have spent the last few months trying to reconnect with old hobbies and pick up some new ones. While teaching myself guitar has been slow going, I have been able to return to embroidery, crochet, and some hand sewing, as well as some drawing here and there. Moose and I get outside to walk (or

run) each day, and while I prefer a nice hike, he would rather play tug all day. (Or eat treats, that's probably his favorite pastime).

I hope that over the next months I will be able to get to know each of your stories, and that we can walk with each other on our faith journeys.

Yours in Christ,

Tori

Sierra Pacific Synod Fiscal Year-End Report for 2020

Christ the King is part of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA. Gail Kiyomura, Sierra Pacific Synod Council Vice-President, presents a virtual year-end report for 2020 in this interesting 8 minute and 25 second YouTube video. You are encouraged to watch this – follow the link below (ctrl+click).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5AmTEjmeD8&feature=youtu.be>

Tri-City Youth Music Ministry Project Collaborative Grant

Late last year, Pastor Tia, Pastor Barbara Caine (Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church - Newark), Pastor Tim Huff (Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Fremont) and Vicar Anand Darla (Good Shepherd Asian Ministry - Fremont) jointly applied for a one-time Collaborative Grant offered and administered by the Sierra Pacific Synod. The initial proposal was for \$80,000 for a Tri-City Youth Music Ministry Project. The Synod notified us earlier this month that **\$10,000** was approved from this very competitive grant program – which is a start.

Thanks to creative and collaborative efforts, the original proposal is being rescoped to fit the approved budget. The vision is a ministry specifically for youth outreach in the Tri-Cities area. Relationships will be built with parents and children in local schools through musical theater. Bob Kufeld and Kris Adams have volunteered to be the two CTK representatives for this committee working with Pastor Tia and the other three churches. Doug Sepeda will serve as an additional resource. Stay tuned for additional information and opportunities for assisting in this new and exciting ministry.

Second Saturday Documentary Series

On the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Niles Discovery Church and the San Jose Peace & Justice Center sponsor a documentary film such as *Always in Season*, a film about racial injustice, *The Story of Plastics*, or a film on voter suppression. A brief synopsis of the film and a link to a trailer are e-mailed to you. Prior to COVID-19, the films were shown at the church. You are often able to view the film ahead of time, or sometimes films are viewed together on Saturday. A virtual discussion follows each film. To get on the mailing list go to <http://bit.ly/ndcemailists>, fill out the form and check the box for the Second Saturday Documentary Series. – *Bonnie Immecker*

A New Look at Stewardship, Currency of Truth

Is truth the same as fact? Is there an absolute truth or does it vary based on a person's circumstances and opinions? Many today think truth is relative to the circumstances—that what is true for some is not necessarily true for others. Truth is affected by individual's situations and experiences. Truth can be skewed by messaging heard, messaging that resonates with groups of people, messaging that becomes their truth.



While there are different types of truth, four are important to understanding other's truth in the Stewardship365 program: factual, interpreted, experienced, and divine. **Factual truth** is supported by evidence. An individual's understanding of the facts, his/her perspectives and assumptions creates **interpreted truth** which in turn is affected by person's or groups' experiences in life becoming **experienced truth**. **Divine Truth** is the Word of God found in the Bible.

If there are variations of truth, how do we know what is true? The Hebrew word for truth is אמת

真 word for truthful or genuine includes ideograms that represent ten eyes over a table. Both indicate the need of a comprehensive, inclusive approach finding when seeking the truth. Eric Law, author of Holy Currencies and founder of Kaleidoscope Institute writes,

“The ability to articulate individually and corporately the global/wholistic truth, both internally—the experiences of the different individuals and groups within the church/ministry—and externally—the experiences of the different individuals and groups in the community, the neighborhood, the town, the nation and the earth. The truth might be gifts that need to be lifted up and celebrated, naming the injustice and oppression against certain populations, or discovering our own lack of spiritual wellness.”

Using the currencies of Relationship and Gracious Leadership we can make genuine connections, both within CTK and local ELCA churches (internal) and the community and other faith churches (external), to develop mutually respectful relationships. Only then, while fully listening to others, can we learn their interpreted and experienced truths to discern their needs and find ways to serve based on Divine Truth.

In the coming months, the stewardship committee will provide opportunities for members, if desired, to be part of the truth-seeking journey. In the meantime, you can consider what you'd like to gain a fuller understanding of or someone you would like to get to know better. Refer to “The Currency of Relationship: Stewardship365” on page 6 of the November Table Talk for techniques to engage and find their truth, what is important to them, while conversing with others.

Be well, your Stewardship Committee

– Melinda Kufeld (Chair), Kris Adams, Cam Bauer, Alan Claassen, Linda Paschal, Pr. Tia, and Debbie Pollak



The CTK Center for Well Being obtained funding in the amount of just under \$400,000 from federal grants through the City of Fremont, foundations, corporations and private donations to convert the Education Building to a preschool for what is now Kidango in 2002. Kidango Carlson Center opened in 2004.

On December 17th I had the pleasure to meet with Noelle Payomo, Chief Operations Officer for Kidango in the entire Bay Area, an operation consisting of 54 facilities with over 600 employees.

We quickly connected over the deep wish to help kids in need. Most families Kidango serves receive subsidized childcare, many of the parents are essential workers. And the needs are huge. And they are getting greater and greater due to this pandemic. So, I asked Noelle, what we could do to help them.

Right now, Kidango can only serve about 50% of its families on sites due to strict Covid regulations. The other kids have to learn from home. You can imagine how hard that is for these little ones who often lack stable internet connections to even meet via Zoom. So, Kidango started to give out “Kits for Kids.” Every child receives a backpack that includes essential educational materials like books, games, art supplies, math and language materials, a stuffed animal, and more to complement the Kidango@Home virtual learning program. Each kit costs \$75. We can help them ensure that their most vulnerable children have the materials they need to learn from home and be prepared to enter kindergarten on track for future academic success. Any amount will help cover the costs. For more information and to donate, follow the link: [Kits for Kids campaign](#) .



We will continue to look into other ways how we can partner with Kidango to brighten the future of kids in our communities. I am excited and will keep you posted. – *Pastor Tia*

UPCOMING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

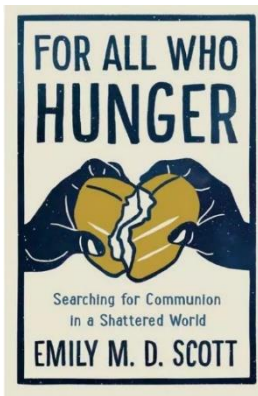
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: Joint service with Holy Redeemer via Zoom, **Wednesday, February 17th, 6:30 pm.** Pastor Barbara will be leading CTK and Holy Redeemer in a virtual choir (CTK’s first!).

BACKPACK PROJECT: Social Ministry continues to work with Compassion Network to identify needs where CTK can help in this extraordinary year of coronavirus and distance learning. Financial donations will be needed throughout the year. Please send checks to CTK 1301 Mowry, Fremont, CA 94538. We hope to have an online donation option soon.

BETHESDA GET TOGETHER AND DEVOTIONS: 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! Pastor Tia to facilitate.

We continue to have a lot of fun on Fridays with our members and friends who live at Bethesda.

BOOK CLUB: **Thursdays, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm** via Zoom. The new book is: **"For All Who Hunger"** by **Emily M. D. Scott.** Jacob Slichter, author of *So You Want to be a Rock & Roll Star*, describes the book as follows:



"While church leaders were asking 'How can we get our message out into the world?' Emily M. D. Scott went out into the world and asked 'How can I bring this back into church?' Her haunting memoir, *For All Who Hunger*, tells the story of how she created a place for those who never felt at home in church and how her unlikely congregation, in turn, helped her rediscover the heart of her own faith. This powerful and illuminating book is a must-read for those interested in how communities of faith can learn, grow, and reclaim their vital purpose."

If you have any questions about the Book Club or would like to be added to the email distribution, please contact Pastor Tia or Debbie Pollak, 510-825-4816 or bartpollak@gmail.com.

CTK COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, February 9th at 7:15 pm via Zoom.

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Tia, Pastor Barbara (Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, Newark), Pastor Tim (Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Fremont) and Vicar Anand (Good Shepherd, Fremont) will continue sharing devotional messages on Tuesdays and Thursdays via e-mail.

EASTER SERVICE: Sunday, April 4th at 10:15 am. Stay tuned for Holy Week details.

LENTEN SERVICES: Wednesdays, February 24th, March 3rd, March 10th, March 17, and March 24th. Hosted by Vicar Anand of Good Shepherd Asian Ministry.

LUNCH BUNCH: Wednesday, February 10th, at 1:00 pm via Zoom. BYOLB! (Bring you own lunch and beverage!)

SEWING BEES: Donations of material, money and vounteers are still needed and welcome as the demands for masks continues. Our "Sewing Bees" mask project is buzzing along in its tenth month of activity. CTK has an amazing group of talented volunteers who continue to support the community with fine cloth face masks. With donations of all sorts and members' funding, we have completed over **5,700** masks. This project has certainly been a blessing - keeping the Bees busy and free from boredom, while in-turn bringing smiles and well-being to so many in need. We are blessed and thankful for your support as we continue on. Bee well and Wear your mask! - *Linda Pearson*

SOCIAL HOUR: Bring your own beverage of choice, snacks or dinner, sign in to Zoom and join us for a relaxing social hour in your own home on **Wednesdays (2/3 and 2/24) at 7:00 pm**. Attendance numbers vary up to 12 people – very informal. Visitors from as far away as Pennsylvania! All are welcome!

SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING: Wednesday, February 3rd, at 10:30 am via Zoom. We will review and vote on our mission statement, and explore ways we can celebrate Black History Month in February.

SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING: Monday, February 1st, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

STEWARDSHIP MEETING: Monday, February 1st, at 7:00 pm and Monday, February 22nd at 5:30 pm.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY: May 6th - 8th (virtual -details to be announced at a later date).

TRI-CITY VOLUNTEERS FOOD BANK: Tuesday – Friday, 9:00–3:00 pm, drop-off times for urgently needed brown paper grocery bags used for food distribution., and the following items: **cereal, fruit cups, small applesauce, packaged cupcakes and individually wrapped snack food** (not expired) @ 37350 Joseph Street, Fremont. No canned goods are needed at this time. Financial donations always welcome! For more information: <http://tri-cityvolunteers.org>

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Monday February 8th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

ZOOM WORSHIP: Total attendance for the respective Sundays in January were: **35, 44, 48, 36 and 46** attendees. Zoom service will continue to be **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, Roxie Banks, Ruth Carpizo, Judy Castro, Randy and Sheila Cooper, Hank Cote, Bob Dubel (brother of Dave undergoing surgery on 2/9), Cori, Roger Fajman, **Cindy Fryan** (friend of the Kufelds undergoing testing for her sudden severe illness), the family of **Keith Glasson** on the passing of Keith's mother, Hank & Sylvia Hanson, the Huff family as **Pastor Tim Huff and son** (recuperating from the coronavirus), Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Jan Kerbel, Don D. Ketcham III, Bob Lawrence, Christi Loveland, America Manspeaker, Jacob Montoya, Clare Nielsen, and **Doug Sepeda** as he undergoes surgery for a kidney tumor.

Continued prayers for all victims of Covid-19 and of natural disasters as well as victims of violence, hatred and oppression throughout the world.



February Birthdays

2/02 Bunny Dubel
2/10 Gail Queenan
2/10 Beth Searcy
2/15 Peggy Claassen

Table Talk Articles – Contributor Deadlines

The Table Talk Newsletter will continue to be published and distributed on the first of every month via e-mail. If you have an article or information that you would like to have included in the Table Talk, please send it directly to me no later than two days prior to the end of the month. Pictures are welcome as well!

Peggy Claassen pclaassen@aol.com

2021 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

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

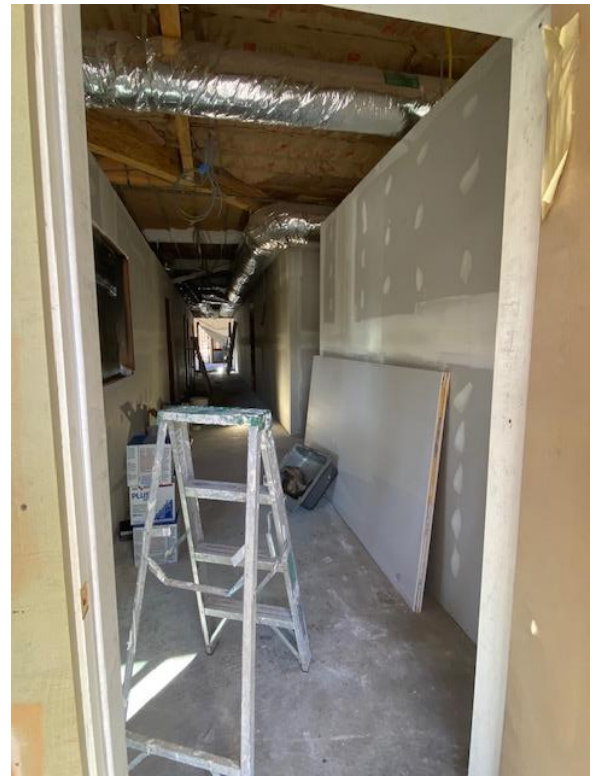
CTK STAFF

Pastor Dr. Tia Pelz (510) 859-5672
pelztia@gmail.com

Barney Tiller, *Music Director*
Patricia Bauer, *Interim Office Administrator*
Christina Bauer, *Webmaster/Designer*
Tori Valcarcel, *Ministry in Context*

CTK OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Thursday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm



(Clockwise from upper left) Door entrance to sanctuary building by the office; looking down hallway towards the Narthex; the office; the Narthex; the Pastor's office (texture being applied on drywall)

Completion of mechanical duct work and t-bar ceiling are scheduled next. Electrical contractor will be completing modification of Narthex lights and door entry lights. 1-31-2021

Sanctuary Repairs



**Shed & Trash Enclosure
Wind Damage**

Special Thanks to **Bill Kemp** and **Don Anderson** for their quick response to wind damage incurred to our trash enclosure and shed along the property line. The shed was scheduled for removal but had some added help from Mother Nature on 1/19. The trash enclosure cover is undergoing repair and the damaged shed has been removed. We incurred no other property damage due to the weather (heavy wind gusts). While there was debris from the trees, there was no limb or other structural damage of our mini-“urban forest.” Our ongoing preventative maintenance of site landscaping overseen by Bill Kemp is greatly appreciated.

