

TABLE TALK

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Christ the King Lutheran Church
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PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Saints!

What are your values? Not all of them, but your 3 most important ones in your life right now? Not an easy question, right?

During our worship on Jan 23rd, we did an exercise called "value mapping". The idea was to come up with ones personal 3 most important values in life. The results are a beautiful picture of why our congregation is so wonderful.

After everyone had shared, we grouped similar values. That way we were able to identify the 3 values most of us prioritize in life. Since people make a church, we assumed that those 3 values are our church's most important values.

They are:

INTEGRITY

COMPASSION

RELATIONSHIPS

In the upcoming months we are going to look at our ministries through the lens of our values. To see where they connect and where something might be missing. We will also talk to our sister churches about their values and hopefully find lots of common ground plus a tool to name differences.

Now, obviously those are great values for anyone to have. But what do they say about us as a church?

Relationships. We value relationships. Among ourselves and our members. With God. With our neighbors. That sounds very *churchy*. And very hard. Because relationships have to be built and tended. Especially when we disagree with each other. Or with God. Because it's OK to argue, it's OK to disagree. Even with God. Jacob disagreed with and wrestled with God. Job did, too, and never accepted a sentence he felt he didn't deserve. Jesus did and bargained for a sweeter cup than death by crucifixion. We can disagree and still stay strong in our faith that is our relationship with God. We can

disagree with each other and still love each other as members of the one body of Christ.

Integrity. *The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles* (per the [English Oxford Living Dictionaries](#)). Integrity doesn't mean that we will always be right or that we won't make mistakes or even hurt others through words and actions. Integrity means that we will own what we do and say, because we value relationships more than anything. And there are no relationships without integral truth-telling. Because the truth will set you free. And nothing else.

Compassion. It's what holds integrity and relationships together. It's what enables us to have

strong moral principles and do the work of building and nurturing relationships even when we are in disagreement. Compassion means to see things from the other person's perspective. To walk a mile in their shoes. To feel what they feel from the place where they are in. To be gracious because we tried everything to understand each other and to feel not just for but with each other. God showed us what that means when God died at the cross, suffering the worst pain. In compassion with a world in pain.

These are great values to live up to. May God bless us on our journey. Blessings,

PASTOR TIA!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello fellow CTK members,

Way back in my bachelor days, my cousin Bob and I hung out at a local watering hole with a bunch of friends after work. Inevitably, one of the regulars would ask Bob how he was, and he always answered "Can't complain, nobody listens." The first few times we heard that we chuckled. After the 100th time or so, we stopped listening. And stopped asking.

Recently, Emily Pang shared a Temple Talk with us on the power of listening and how to build our skills in that area. If you missed it I urge you to catch the replay on our web page when posted. It is worth a review, even if you attended the service.

We identified "compassion" as one of the key values of our congregation. Please see Pastor Tia's discussion in her monthly message. This value goes hand in hand with the skill of listening. You cannot truly have compassion without listening to the cares and concerns of those around us, both in our congregation and in our community. So, let's all "Listen up!", so we can be more effective in demonstrating our compassion and following the example of our Lord and Savior.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Sepeda

Council President

SERVICES VIA ZOOM FOR FEBRUARY

The worship committee met on February 1 and decided unanimously to continue our worship services via Zoom only for the month of February due to the high numbers in Covid cases. We will revisit the question of reopening during our next meeting on February 22nd. Thanks for understanding!!

SAFE PARKING AT CTK COMING SOON!

CTK voted to move ahead and become a host site for the Safe Parking Program with the City of Fremont. This is a rotational program that we will be hosting for a month at a time. You are invited to volunteer! We will need volunteers to check-in people at night (between 6:30-7:30PM) and to check people out in the morning (around 6AM).

It's a great opportunity to connect with other volunteers and some of our unhoused neighbors. Volunteers will be screened and trained through [Compassionate Network](#), an awesome Christian organization we have worked with before. The training is self-paced, online, and consists of great videos (I have watched them already!). If you are interested in volunteering, please email specialprojects@cityserve.org. Please click on this [flyer](#) for more information!

BREEZE CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions made through our website are processed by Breeze. There is a fee for each contribution. The giver can either add an amount to cover it, or have it deducted from the stated amount. The net amount of all of the contributions made this way are deposited to our bank account once or twice a month. The full amount will appear on your Giving Statement as of the date you give it, not the date it is put in our bank account.

To save the amount of the fee, consider paying by computer directly from your own bank account. There is usually no charge, and recurring payments can be set up and controlled easily. Your envelope number can be used as the account number.

The Breeze button is great convenience for non members who are not regular contributors, but would like to support our ministries.

Laurel King, *Financial Secretary (ret.)*

Jesus & Justice

We had another great Jesus & Justice event, hosted by CTK on January 9th via Zoom. Four Latinx Christian leaders shared about their life experiences, their faith and the way they experience the American church in a sobering, honest and heartfelt way. They proclaimed the Gospel through their very bodies and stories. If you missed the 90-minute workshop, here is the recording: [Latinx American Experience Panel](#).

Our next event will be on February 20th, 2:00-3:30PM via Zoom with pastor and author Dominique DuBois Gilliard. He is the Director of Racial Righteousness and Reconciliation for the Evangelical Covenant Church. I read his book [Subversive Witness: Scripture's Call to Leverage Privilege](#). It's powerful! I hope you will join us for the conversation. Please register via this flyer [Book Talk with Dominique DuBois Gilliard](#).

Dennis Ash, A Remembrance by Pr. Tia

On January 26th, 2022, Dennis peacefully died at Washington Hospital. He received great care till the end and granted me the honor and blessing to be with him through his departure from this world until he got to see the glory of God.

Dennis was a wonderful member of our church. He loved the music and the people. The last time he got to be with us in-person was during our stations of the cross on Good Friday. I remember him sitting on his walker close to Barney and Jason, listening, with closed eyes, smiling.

Dennis loved to play tic-tac-toe. And he loved to *win* against me even more. Except when there was Bingo at his home... he never missed that.

Dennis was someone who could read people like books. He felt the mood of everyone around him. He knew everyone by their voices and names, caring for his roommates and even the nurses. He was so happy every time someone sent him a card or called him or even visited him.

During his last hour, I sat next to him, holding his hand, praying over him. And all I could think of was "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want". And I could feel him walk without moving his body towards his God with his God. And towards his mom, whom he has been missing so much in the past years.

Please keep Dennis' brothers, their families, Dennis' friends, his amazing social worker Debbie, and especially his good friend Robert Virgilio in your prayers in their mourning.

Together with Bethesda we plan to have a celebration of life for Dennis around the time of his birthday in mid-May. His infectious smile will be missed.

In our Thoughts and Prayers

Eli & Tina Adams, Kris Adams & her family, Austin Alaniz, Rose Archibald, **family and friends of Dennis Ash**, 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, Paul & Marlene Gerboth (Barbara's brother & sister-in-law), Hank & Sylvia Hanson, Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Jan Kerbel, Don D. Ketcham III, Bob Kufeld & his family, Bob Lawrence, Christi Loveland, Ruth Miller (previous member) & her family, Emma Kate Rinker, Angelica Ruiz, Doug Sepeda, Jeremy Strain (Pat Cote's nephew) and his family, Mark Sullivan, Barney Tiller, Betty Wargo and Richard Wightman.

February Birthdays

Bunny Dubel

February 2

Peggy Claassen

February 15

Other Upcoming Events / Announcements

SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING Wed., February 2nd, 10AM via CTK Zoom. We will discuss the Safe Parking program.

JESUS AND JUSTICE Our next event will be on February 20th, 2:00-3:30PM via Zoom with pastor and author Dominique DuBois Gilliard. See attachment or above article for more information.

LUNCH BUNCH Next meeting TBD. Gather with us as we share fellowship and celebrate our CTK birthdays. Cost is your order plus tax and 20% gratuity. Contact [Roseanne Lawrence roseanne111@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:Roseanne.Lawrence@sbcbglobal.net) to RSVP.

SOCIAL MINISTRY Mon., Feb. 21st, 6PM via CTK Zoom

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SERVICE Postponed until we return to in-person services. This will be a service of appreciation and thanks for the incredible volunteer work done by CTK members during the pandemic. Details to be announced ASAP.

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 will be on vacation Feb. 25th through Mar. 4th. 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 are reading and discussing Mary Magdalene Revealed: The First Apostle, Her Feminist Gospel, And the Christianity We Haven't Tried Yet by Meggan Watterson. As a companion study piece, we are discussing the Gospel of Mary which is not part of the canon. Please join us! CTK can help with purchasing the book; please contact Pastor Tia 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.

2022 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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

CTK STAFF

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

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

Website: ctkfremont.squarespace.com

Attachments follow:

1. *Fremont Safe Parking Volunteer Request Flyer*
2. *Jesus and Justice Collective: "A Book Talk with Dominique DuBois Gilliard" Flyer*



CITY OF FREMONT SAFE PARKING HOST SITE
PROGRAM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP FACILITATE SAFE PARKING PROGRAM

Come volunteer with Fremont's unhoused community!

**ARE YOU INTERESTED? EMAIL
SPECIALPROJECTS@CITYSERVE.ORG**

The Safe Parking Host Site Program is searching for dedicated volunteers to help administer services in the evenings to our unhoused community members living in their vehicles.

SAFE PARKING PROGRAM FOR UNHOUSED FREMONT RESIDENTS

*Share your time with your Tri-City
Neighbors!*

As a volunteer, you will:

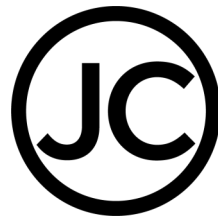
- Assist guest check-in in the evening and check-out in the morning
- Assist program hospitality: delivering food, coordinating evening activities

All volunteers will be trained.



For more information please email safeparking@fremont.gov or
call Guadalupe Gonzalez at 510-574-2222


CITY OF
Fremont
Human Services Department

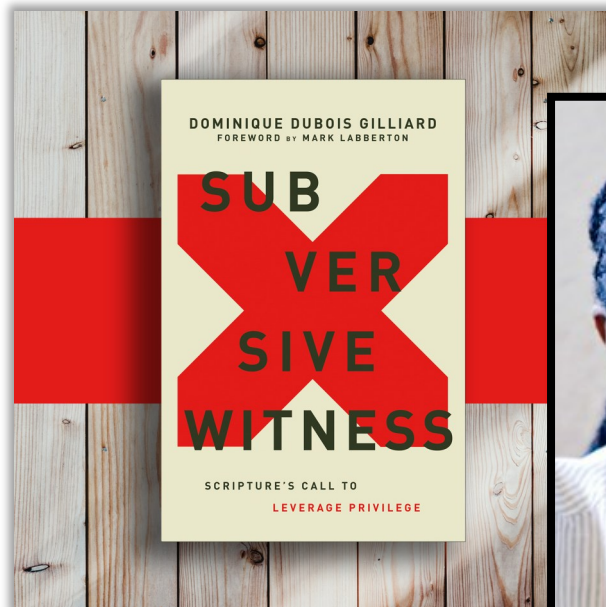


**JESUS & JUSTICE
COLLECTIVE**

Presents...

A Book Talk with Dominique DuBois Gilliard

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH | 2:00 PM | ZOOM



CAN WE LEARN TO LEVERAGE PRIVILEGE? WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Subversive Witness asks us to grapple with privilege, indifference, and systemic sin in new ways by using biblical examples to reveal the complex nature of privilege and Christians' responsibility in stewarding it well.

Join this frank and timely conversation to be encouraged, challenged, and moved toward action!

**BUY
THE
BOOK!**

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!