

TABLE TALK

JANUARY 4, 2022

Christ the King Lutheran Church
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PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Saints!

Before I went on vacation, I wrote this cheerful pastor's message for you all for this Table Talk. It was basically a long version of "**Yeah, we are back in-person,**" thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make that possible.

The "Thank you" is still valid. And yes, we were in-person for a little while. For 5 services, to be precise.

I got to serve you in an actual church! Thank you to all of you who have helped make this possible.

First and foremost, to **Peggy** for her enduring work throughout the past 2 years to get us back into the church. Thanks for the millions of hours you have spent calling and watching and checking in and reporting and nagging and following up and through with contractors and the City of Fremont. Thanks for your persistence and love for our church! We all owe you **a lot!**

Thank you to **Dana** for your flexibility around moving your office, figuring out the new spaces,

finding things in boxes. You are amazing and a gift to our community.

Thank you to **Bill** and **Don** for maintaining our property throughout the changes the fire and the pandemic have brought.

Thank you to **Alan, Dave, Bob, Patricia,** and **Jim** for your hours of figuring out how to make a hybrid service work well for people in-person and on Zoom.

Thank you to **Barney** for your patience. You have waited so long to finally get back to your organ. It's such a joy to hear you play!

Thank you to **Jason** for zooming the choir even before we could reopen. For finding long ethernet cables and bringing your monitor and laptop to church every Sunday to livestream our wonderful choir into our living-rooms. Thank you to **Bonnie, Kris, Pat, Barbara, Peggy, Dana, Joe, Jason,** and **Jim** for filling our ears and hearts with joyful sound.

Thank you to **Pat, Debbie, Debbie, Kris, Roseanne, Patricia, Myrna,** and **Nikki** for putting everything right back into place, and improvising

where need be, and adjusting to the new safety measures.

Thank you to our lectors and assistants **Bunny, Pat, Kris, Elena, Debbie, Peggy, Barbara, Patricia, Toni, Joe** and **Jim** for being flexible, no matter whether we worship in-person or via Zoom.

Thank you to our ushers in the first weeks, to **Steve, Tony, Dave, Doug, Joe, Jan** and **Cam** for dealing gracefully with my ignorance about liturgical traditions at CTK and teaching me by doing it.

And last but not least, thank you to all of you who have faithfully stayed with CTK through these past 2 years. Who have continued to worship with us via Zoom. Or, who have been zoomed out and therefore continued to be connected with us in prayer and thoughts. It was so amazing to welcome you all (back) in the sanctuary.

And now, we have all had to learn yet a new letter of the Greek alphabet (soon, everyone will be able to read the New Testament in its original language...) and Omicron is mixing things up. Again.

What a way to start a new year. The third one under pandemic measures. It's tiring. Exhausting. Disheartening at times. And hopeful because I see how caring you all are. How you are willing to sacrifice the physical closeness we all long for to keep each other safe and healthy.

If we have learned one thing in the past years, it's that there is no certainty about what will be. Neither in the far nor in the close future. I know it sounds like an empty phrase. But the experiences of the past 2 years have filled it brimful. Like me celebrating our reopening just 2 weeks ago, just to find myself in a totally changed reality upon returning from skiing. One could call that a lack in foresight. Or optimism turned into blindness. Or we can just acknowledge that change is omnipresent, that we are globally connected and that Covid, once again, has shown that to be true. It's a true Epiphany. Laying open what we knew to be true but thought we could easily forget until recently. That in our world nothing is one country's problem or one state's failure. That no one is safe until everyone is safe. That our attempts to build little islands of safety are doomed. That a virus cannot be banned, just defeated by all for all.

No certainty means that we have a lot of space for hope. And for God's surprises in our lives. When we have to wait and see and stop planning (which I really don't like!), we might have a good chance witnessing God's spirit at work. Again. Staying realistic and hopeful. Staying God's people. "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Romans 5:5)

Be blessed and be a blessing,

PASTOR TIA!

IN-PERSON SERVICES PAUSED

Unfortunately, despite our heartfelt prayers, the COVID Omicron variant is raging through California, including Alameda County, which has seen a 10x increase in the number of reported cases (from 6 to 60) and a nearly 8x increase in the rate of positive tests (from 1.8% to 15%). Because of this dire environment, the Worship & Music Committee has recommended we suspend in-person services until the end of the month.

We know that this is discouraging and saddening, seemingly yet another blow to our struggles to reassert some normalcy and joy in our lives. We survived for 20 months; we can do it for one more!

At the end of the month, we will reevaluate the health environment and hopefully be able to fling wide the doors and resume worshipping face to face.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year to all. I wish to share a prayer for the New Year sent to me by a friend.

May you know that you are deeply and unconditionally loved.

May you see yourself as the masterpiece that you are uniquely created, wonderfully made, perfectly woven.

May your inner being be restored and rooted in love.

May the meditations of your heart and mind be kind and lovely, producing rich understanding.

May your vision be clear enabling you to choose wisely and make sound judgments.

May your strength be renewed, sweeping away fear and doubt.

May counsel and help be sought from those who truly have your best interest at heart.

May thankfulness and gratitude rise up within you and overtake worry.

May you be gracious in word and deed with yourself and others, building up and encouraging.

May you be settled in your calling, knowing that you have been invited into work that has been established with purpose and meaning.

May joy, peace, hope, and courage be in abundance for you.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. – Apostle Paul to the church at Thessalonica, 1st Century A.D.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Sepeda, Council President

SAFE PARKING PROGRAM

The City of Fremont has identified the first 4 congregations that will begin hosting unhoused neighbors living out of their cars for a month each. How wonderful, that we decided to be a part of this first cohort.

As of now, the launch is planned for January 31st when South Bay Community Church with pastor Tammy Long (who is also a member of our Jesus and Justice Collective) will host 15 cars. CTK hasn't determined yet when we will host, so stay posted.

The City started partnering with CityServe Compassion Network, a faith-based organization that we have already worked with for our backpack project in the past 2 years. CityServe will help find, train, and coordinate volunteers for the program. Members of our church will be prioritized to volunteer at CTK, empty spots will be filled with other wonderful people from Tri-City.

Thanks for your trust, your wish to help, and your love for the least among us!

MT. DIABLO CONFERENCE

Once a year, everyone from CTK is invited to join the annual Mt. Diablo Conference Meeting. Please join us!



Conference Meeting

January 30, 2022

3pm-5pm

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
399 Wiget Lane. Walnut Creek, CA

- Synod Council Updates
- Bishop Office Updates
- Resolution Discussions
- Synod Council Nominations
- & More

Flower Arrangers UNITE!

Now that we will be back in the sanctuary for worship—volunteers for flower arranging are needed. It involves purchasing & arranging flowers for the altar, and usually only once every 6-8 weeks, arranging talent is not needed. For details and to volunteer please e-mail Myrna Stephenson, myrna677@icloud.com.

Appreciating CTK Volunteers



It has been a time like no other, with...

- 9,200 masks
- 982 filled backpacks
- 97 chemo-care tote bags
- 1,080 SAVE pillow cases and pillows
- 269 prayer shawls

...lovingly made by our volunteers. Christ the King Lutheran Church's outreach to the community has truly been... "God's Work through Our Hands." We intended to devote a service in appreciation of our many volunteers, but we must regrettably postpone this due to the Omicron surge. Look for more news on this event in the future!

A Living Advent Calendar

During the month of December, we met 5x for carols, prayers, and conversations. Each time at a different location. 4 brave people opened their front yards, garages, or backyards for old friends, and neighbors. Connections were made, relationships deepened, and prayers ascended throughout Fremont. THANK YOU to Joan, Linda and Terry, Becky, and Pastor Barbara and Dot for your hospitality!



Gathering at Becky's led by Tori on the 19th

In our Thoughts and Prayers

Eli & Tina Adams, **Kris Adams & her family**, 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, **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.

CAROLING IN THE COMMUNITY

On Dec 12th, a group of 10 people from CTK and HRLC made their way singing through assisted living residences, including Windsor Care, Aegis, Carlton, and the Bethesda Group Home. It was a true Christmas miracle. We brought the Good News of "Joy to the world" to so many people. Some of them thought that they had been forgotten, that they wouldn't be able to celebrate Christmas, at least not emotionally. There were many tears of joy, some tears of sadness. And the hope, that we will come back next year!

FLOWER DEVOTIONS

The Christmas Poinsettias were given by Bunny & Dave Dubel, Roseanne & Bob Lawrence and Debbie & Doug Ward.

The Second Sunday of Christmas flowers are given in memory of Margaret Tuleen from Joe, Jan and Amy and arranged by Debbie Ward.

January Birthdays

Rebecca Shaffer	January 13	Gail Nelson	January 23
Robert Kufeld	January 15	Edith Perakis	January 27

Other Upcoming Events / Announcements

SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING Wed., Jan. 5th, 10AM via CTK Zoom. Agenda will be Safe Parking and Jesus and Justice event on Jan. 9th at CTK.

JESUS AND JUSTICE COLLECTIVE MEETING #4 Sun., Jan. 9th, 2PM at CTK. A panel discussion of the inequities of the Latinos in our community. The venue for the event has not yet been determined – it may be held only on Zoom or it may also be live in our sanctuary., held in our newly reopened sanctuary. See **attached flyer** for more information on the speakers and to register. Please contact Pastor Tia if you're interested for more up-to-date information.

LUNCH BUNCH Wed., Jan. 12th, 1PM. Location is 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](mailto:Roseanne.Lawrence@sbcbglobal.net) roseanne111@sbcbglobal.net to RSVP.

SOCIAL MINISTRY Mon., Jan. 17th, 6PM via CTK Zoom

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 Jan. 15th through Jan 21st. In a spiritual emergency please contact Pr Barbara (holyredeemer@hrlc-newark.org) or Pr Tim (therevbaddog@gmail.com).

CTK BOOK CLUB Thu., Jan. 6th, 10AM on CTK Zoom. This will include a Bible study and we will also discuss what we want to do going forward, bible study or reading a book. A couple book ideas that we talked about were Unsettling Truths by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah as well as Dreams Of My Mothers by Loel L.A. Peterson. Other book ideas are also welcome.

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

Jim Sepeda, President
Peggy Claassen, Vice-President
Patricia Bauer, Secretary
Jay Graham, Treasurer
Kris Adams
Joe Allen
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. *“Sewing Bees” help the community, Tri-City Voice, Dec. 7, 2021*
2. *Fremont Safe Parking Volunteer Request Flyer*
3. *Jesus and Justice Collective: “The LatinX American Experience” Flyer*

“Sewing Bees” help the community

BY NIAMH LAMBERT
PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA
PEARSON

When disaster struck back in March 2020, so did the desire to help those in the community. This statement sums up Christ the King Lutheran Church and its “Sewing Bees.”

Sewing Bees are church members who have been making a difference in the community for quite some time. For years they have been sewing pillow cases for domestic violence nonprofit SAVE, care bags for cancer

patients and prayer shawls. But with so many people in urgent need of masks at the start of the pandemic, they expanded their generosity. The group was approached by social ministry leader Laurel King with the idea of making masks, and Sewing Bees took on the challenge with open arms.

The first few months started out slow, with supplies scarce and volunteers having to find simple patterns that everyone would be able to follow. Community members began graciously opening up their homes,

donating whatever scraps of fabric they could find lying around. This coupled with simple YouTube tutorials got Sewing Bees past their main obstacle.

Putting masks together was a fairly simple process, but still incredibly time consuming. Sewers had to start out by picking up materials, then washing and ironing each individual piece. From there Sewing Bees would cut out fabric and begin the assembly process, adding in nose pieces, elastic ear loops and inserts for a filter. Some sewers even included small



notes on how to wash and care for the handmade masks.

The group started to take off, sewing masks for a variety of different organizations such as Kaiser, nursing homes, Fremont Police Department, HERS Breast Cancer Foundation and Navajo People of Arizona.

“We would rotate through our group of organizations, calling to see how many masks they needed and if there were any specifications,” says “Sewing Bee” Linda Pearson. “The police department asked for black masks to match their uniforms and Kaiser nurses would ask for a smaller size so they could give them to their kids at home, since at work nurses could only wear blue surgical ones.”

Sewing Bees’ largest project came about this school year, when they donated fifteen hundred masks to local school backpack distributions. “Lutheran Church donated three hundred packs, and in each backpack five masks. Seeing the kids light up as they received a bag with supplies for the school year was truly something special.

Everyone was so kind and I couldn’t tell you how many ‘thank yous’ we received.”

Along their journey, Sewing Bees made countless friendships with fellow Church members and others out in the community. They were met with support from everyone and people from all over offered help in any way they could.

“I just want to again thank everyone who helped us. None of it would have been possible without the support of the community and our church, Christ the King Lutheran. We were met with such a large amount of gratitude it was unbelievable. Everyone was so kind and it was wonderful to see what a difference we were making.”

As the pandemic winds down, Sewing Bees are too, and production has been scaled back. They donated a total of 9,100 masks over the past two years, and are ready to jump back to their machines and rev up production the moment they are asked.





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:

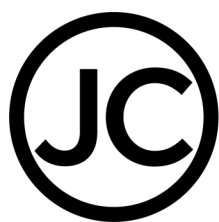
- Assist guest check-in in the evening and check-out in the morning
- Assist program hospitality: delivering food, coordinating evening activities

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...

THE LATINX AMERICAN EXPERIENCE:

A Panel Discussion About How Faith, Culture & Racial Justice Collide

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022 | 2:00 PM | Christ the King Lutheran Church

(Click location above for Google Maps)

PANELISTS



Angela Ibarra,
Founder & Executive
Director
Generations United



Pastor Fil Nesta,
Lead Co-Pastor
Stockton Covenant Church



Pastor Juana Nesta,
Lead Co-Pastor
Stockton Covenant Church



Dina González-Piña,
Executive Director
West Coast MCC

MODERATOR



Mateo Alzate,
Operations/
Restoration Initiative
Youth With a Mission SF

BELONGING. ACCEPTANCE. COMMUNITY.

We need each other - it is fundamental to our existence. We need to feel that we belong and are accepted in order to foster genuine community.

What does that look like within a people group as beautifully diverse as the Latinx/Hispanic community? How does faith aid in bringing unity amongst various cultural backgrounds and practices?

Join us for a conversation that offers new perspectives on the intersections of faith, culture, and race.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!