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## TABLE TALK



### PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Saints of Christ the King!

*"Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless God never did." (Dr. William Butler, 17th Century English Writer)<sup>1</sup>*

I fully agree. Doubtless God didn't make a better berry. (Sorry, raspberry, currant, blackberry...). One of my best times in my life was when I lived on a farm in Manitoba, Canada. My host-parents mostly had large fields of broccoli and carrots. And then there were some strawberry fields behind our house. I was in paradise.

Paradise fits the notion that strawberries are pretty churchy. It's the berry connotated with Mary, Mother of God. Why? Because it blossoms in May, which traditionally is the month of Mary. Because the berry is heart-shaped and red like love. Legend has it that if you break a double strawberry



in half and share it with someone, you will fall in love with each other.

And, because it tastes like paradise. That's why you will find strawberries entwined around the feet of Jesus, Mary and Saints in paintings from medieval times. That's why people

used to plant strawberries on graves in memory of and as a precursor to paradise. You can even see Mary feeding a strawberry to little Jesus. She knew what was good.

Plus, the strawberry leaves are tripartite. So, it's basically a trinitarian fruit = a godly fruit. I knew it. My taste buds can't be wrong. To symbolize perfection and righteousness, medieval stone masons carved strawberry designs on altars and around the tops of pillars in churches and cathedrals.

Of course, it wouldn't be a church fruit if there weren't any negative feelings around it as well. Some people saw in the strawberry an image of sinful temptation. (Yes, if you eat too many, your tummy will hurt.) Queen Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII, had a strawberry shaped birthmark on her neck, which some claimed proved she was a witch. (Spoiler alert: she wasn't.)

Strawberries stand for passion and healing. It's the only fruit with seeds on the outside rather than the inside.

It's a fruit that carries its most precious parts

outside. Which makes it vulnerable. It's what we have to do when we want us and others to heal. We have to turn our inside out. We have to show our soft spots. To grow passionately in compassion.

Something we need a lot of these days. Let's eat more strawberries and passionately work towards healing. Maybe start with sending someone a home-made strawberry cake.

Sweet Greetings, Pr Tia!



<sup>1</sup>

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/strawberries/history.cfm>

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I have been going through some of the boxes of papers damaged from the fire that are scheduled for disposal to see if anything is salvageable that would be good to have for our CTK history or ongoing operations. It's kind of a reminder that most of us have too much clutter in our lives but among the clutter, we can find an occasional gem. I found a small Memory Book that had belonged to Mae Lewis, tucked among some other things after peeling away a melted plastic folder; it was amazingly intact other than smelling like smoke. I was able to return it to her son and

daughter-in-law – they were so thankful to have Mae's book back since she had passed away in August of 2019 – it gave me great joy. So, as you're working through your clutter (as I am also trying to do at home!), don't forget to look for the real gems and keep them safe (but do get rid of the rest since it is fuel for fire!).

Yours in Christ,

*Peggy Claassen, President*



## FIRE REPAIRS/GAS LINE REPLACEMENT UPDATE

The good news is that we have an estimated completion date for the sanctuary repairs. Unfortunately, the estimated date is early **November of 2020**. There is no date yet for the gas line replacement project completion although plans were approved as of yesterday. Please avoid the construction areas if you have business at the site. Also, it is not too late to join a committee to give input for selection of carpet color for the sanctuary, offices, library and hallways. Questions? Contact Peggy.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

We are continuing to monitor conditions for determining when we can worship together, in person once again. If you have not already done so, please take the survey that Pastor Tia has put together to help us determine the thoughts of the congregation on this matter. Your input will help us develop options in both the near term and long term. In the meantime, streaming of service will continue via Zoom on **Sunday mornings at 10:15 am**.



Portion of gas line repairs

## SQUARESPACE LAUNCH!!!

Thanks to CTK Webmaster/Developer Christina Bauer and a group of dedicated volunteers (Kris Adams, Patricia Bauer, Melinda Kufeld and Wendy Wolfe Vis along with Pastor Tia) the new CTK website is ready to launch. In addition to updated content and better connectivity, the Squarespace platform will better suit our needs as we move forward. Check it out!



Hallway Ceiling

## 2020 “BACKPACK” PROJECT

Because of COVID-19, the student needs for the coming school year will be **much** bigger and potentially different than previous years. If you have not already done so, please read an e-mail sent earlier today from CTK regarding the details for this year’s project that was compiled by Melinda Kufeld. There now is not only a need for basic supplies but also the tools for online learning. Our backpack team is working with Tri-City Volunteers and the school districts to

help identify the technology needs and opportunities for expanding our funding efforts. Bonnie Immeker successfully obtained a \$250 grant from Thrivent for the project. Bob Kufeld is setting up a GoFundMe page – please stay tuned for details – your participation is important to maximize funding not just from CTK but also outside sources. Donations to the backpack project can also be made directly to CTK – send checks to 1301 Mowry Ave. Fremont, CA 94538. Please also reach out to friends, family and post on your Facebook accounts for this very worthwhile project.

## UPDATE: Mask Count for COVID-19

To date, the Sewing Bees group has made over **1200** masks (!) that have been donated to a variety of organizations and individuals. Please contact Linda Pearson if you are in need of mask (s) or would like to contribute time or funds to this project.

## CHEMO CARE BAGS for HERS



HERS Breast Cancer Foundation strives every day to bring HERS – Hope, Empowerment, Renewal, and Support — to individuals undergoing breast cancer treatment. Since 2018, CTK volunteers have provided 88 Chemocare bags to individuals. The handsewn bags contain travel size toiletries, scarves, blankets, masks, puzzles, books and other items to provide comfort to those undergoing long hours of treatment and months of recovery. If you are interested in donating time, supplies or funds for Chemocare bags, please contact Patricia Bauer.

*Know someone who needs extra help during this time?*

Please leave a message at the office (510) 797-3724 or contacting Pastor Tia at (510) 859-5672.

## STEWARDSHIP 365

Pastor Tia, Patricia Bauer, Melinda Kufeld, Kris Adams and Peggy Claassen had the opportunity to attend a 90-minute online presentation on June 13<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Synod. It was a very energizing presentation and we are hoping to incorporate the program into our congregation. This is a new look at Stewardship in a sustainable and diverse fashion, exploring “currencies” beyond money; more in tune with recirculation of our resources throughout the year. Stay tuned for more information!





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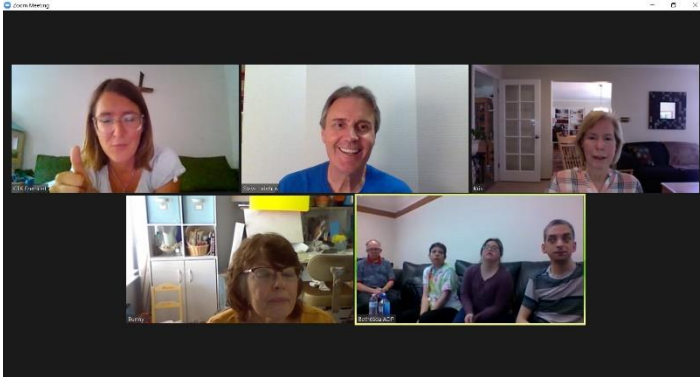
## UPCOMING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**E-MAIL DEVOTIONS:** Pastors Tia, Barbara and Tim will continue to send devotional messages during the week, M-W-F.

**LIBERATING LUTHERAN LIBATIONS:** Bring your own beverage of choice and join us for a relaxing social hour via Zoom on **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**. All are welcome!

**BOOK CLUB/BIBLE STUDY:** Join us via Zoom on **Thursday mornings, 10:00 – 11:30 am**. The current book being studied is The Cross and the Lynching Tree, by Theologian James H. Cone. Explores these powerful symbols and their interconnection in history and the souls of the African American community. This is especially relevant in our present time.

**DEVOTIONS WITH BETHESDA:** Join Pastor Tia on Zoom **Fridays from 2:30 – 3:00 pm**.



Pastor Tia has scheduled a meeting with our members at Bethesda for a lively half an hour.

Catch up with our friends, sing, dance, listen to a biblical story and pray. All are welcome to join!

**SOCIAL MINISTRY:** Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm via Zoom. (tentative – check website calendar for changes)

### LUNCH BUNCH:

Next Lunch Bunch will be **Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm** via Zoom. BYOLB! (Bring you own lunch and beverage!)



**CTK COUNCIL MEETING:** Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm via Zoom.

**ZOOM WORSHIP:** Total attendance continues to be strong: 49, 49, 42, and 52 attendees for the respective Sundays in June. Zoom service will continue through the summer (or until further notice) at **10:15 am on Sundays**. Reach out to friends and neighbors as a safe and easy way to share in worship, separate but together.

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## IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Eli Adams, Austin Alaniz, Rose Archibald, Ruth Carpizo, Judy Castro, Randy and Sheila Cooper, Roger Fajman, Nikki Jackson, Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Don D. Ketcham III, Christi Loveland, America Manspeaker, Laura McCorkle, Jacob Montoya, Clare Nielsen, Doug Sepeda, Bob Walter and the friends and family of Marilyn Shaner on her passing.

## July Birthdays:

7/5 Matthew Perakis  
7/6 Pat Cote  
7/6 Linda Paschal  
7/7 Laurel King

7/8 Doug Sepeda  
7/10 Katherine Gutierrez  
7/10 Keith Bauer  
7/11 Keith Glasson

7/11 Alan Claassen  
7/12 Jay Graham  
7/23 Karen Mueller  
7/28 Myrna Stephenson

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## July Anniversaries:

7/8 Christina & John O'Hallaran (25)  
7/18 Kris & Steve Adams (39)  
7/31 David Vis & Wendy Wolfe Vis (21)

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## 2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Peggy Claassen, *President*  
Bob Kufeld, *Vice-President*  
Jay Graham, *Treasurer*  
Joe Allen, *Secretary*  
Kris Adams  
Patricia Bauer  
Elena Bryant  
Laurel King, *Financial Secretary*  
Melinda Kufeld  
Terry Pearson

## CTK STAFF

Pastor Tia Pelz (510) 859-5672  
[pelztia@gmail.com](mailto:pelztia@gmail.com)  
Barney Tiller, *Music Director*  
Ina Ketcham, *Church Secretary/ Administrator*  
Christina Bauer, *Webmaster/ Designer*

