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TABLE TALK



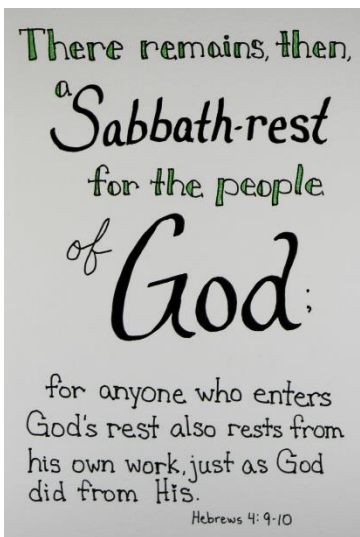
PASTOR'S LETTER

When you are reading this message, I will already be on vacation. On a wonderful 6-week break without checking my work email. (Ok, I am already a little scared of the first day of work and the 1 million emails, but let's not jump ahead!) Why can I take that much time off? Because I am only employed part-time at CTK, meaning I work full-time when I am here, and I get comp-time off. It's a great deal for both sides.

To me, these 6 weeks are meant to be used as a Sabbath time. A time for rewiring and reconnecting with my husband and kids. A time for prayer and deep connection with God through conversations with friends, evenings spent with a book, hikes and canoe trips and camping, visiting new places and discovering more truths. Especially after a year like the last one, when we were physically together all the time while occupied with work all the time, too.

During my 6 weeks off, you all will celebrate worship 4x at Christ the King via Zoom. With wonderful guest preachers! On July 11th and August 1st there will be no service but you are invited to visit other churches online or in-person.

I include a short list in this Table Talk. Why is that? For two reasons: First, everyone deserves a break, including our wonderful musicians Barney and Jason. Second, it can be really inspiring to visit other churches once in a while. To see how they worship, to meet their people, to realize what one misses, what one loves and what one would like to change.



Wishing you all a summer filled with breaks and time to breathe and simply be,

Blessings,

Pastor Tia!

Note: Pastor Tia will be on vacation from **June 28 through August 8**. In an emergency, Pastor Barbara or Pastor Tim will be available for assistance:

(510) 793-1911 Pastor Barbara Caine - Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church

(510) 793-6285 Pastor Tim - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Council President's Corner

Our congregation faces a very important decision on July 15th. That evening at 7 PM we will be hosting a Congregational Meeting via CTK Zoom in order for discussion and to present an option to sell the vacant lot next to our parking lot. Our Council has been struggling for years to find a use for this land that would benefit our church as well as further our mission in the Tri-City area. That opportunity may have finally arrived. Please do your best to attend this meeting to hear the details and to register your vote to authorize the Council to enter into negotiations for sale of the vacant lot. Please remember, in order to vote, you must be present at the zoom meeting.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Sepeda, Council President

Tri-City Kids' Theater Project starts in Fall 2021



About 9 months ago, the four ELCA churches in the Tri-City area applied for a Grant from the Synod towards a joint Music Ministry. We were awarded \$10,000 and are finally able to move forward to plan an in-person afternoon camp in the fall subject to Covid restrictions. Our first play will be “Are we there yet?” Depending on the number of participants, we will either rehearse together with Pastor Barbara at Holy Redeemer in Newark or start a second group at CTK if we get more than 24 children. So, spread the word among your friends, neighbors, and families to see if there is an interest in participating!

Who? Grades K-12!

When? Wednesdays, starting August 25th from 3-5:30 p.m. Performances will be on October 6th and Sunday, October 10th.

All the information can be found under www.ctkfremont.org including the link for signup. – *Pastor Tia*

Jesus and Justice Collective

The joint effort of churches in Tri-City towards racial healing are beginning to take some shape. On **August 1st**, **there will be the first in-person meeting at 1:00 pm** for everyone who just wants to check out how other Christians talk about how Jesus and Justice are deeply interconnected in their faith. You will get a separate invitation from our office later in July. The meeting will be at **Bridges Community Church** (505 Driscoll Road, Fremont, CA 94539). And since we won't have worship service that Sunday at CTK, you might even want to visit their worship at 11:00 am in-person or via livestream. (<https://www.bridgescc.org/im-new/sundays/>)

– *Pastor Tia*

Safe Parking – Update

At our last council meeting, we had a vivid and open conversation about the Safe Parking Program that the City of Fremont hopes to pilot with the help of faith communities. We gathered a list of remaining questions that mostly will need to be put in writing by the City of Fremont. Pastor has also reached out to Kidango and the Fremont Chinese Seventh Day Adventist Church; both were very appreciative of our efforts. – *Pastor Tia*

ACTS for Vitality: An Invitation

On July 18th, **Pastor Tita Valeriano** will be introducing our congregation to a new program called **ACTS for Vitality**. If you want to have a first idea of what that might be, keep reading 😊. The text is an excerpt from the Synod's information.

This 18-to-24-month program for ELCA congregations is a journey intended to help congregations renew their vitality. ACTS stands for: Adapting, Connecting and/or Collaborating, Transforming and Sustaining.

ACTS for Vitality is an opportunity to go through this covenanted and intentional vitality journey with other congregations, learning from and with one another.

The goals are to:

- Stir up and sustain the life-giving mission and ministries of congregations centered on relationship with God, with one another and the world.
- Develop and discover new ways of discipleship (followers) and apostleship (witnesses) for the 21st Century church.
- Increase relational connections, collaborations and visibility of congregations in evangelism and justice work in their respective neighborhoods.
- Prioritize the gift and challenge of authentic diversity as a faith community.
- Strengthen relationships among congregations and Lutheran (and Ecumenical) collective action in their communities by overcoming silos and walls of isolation.

As with any journey, it is a matter of getting prepared, setting out, and then moving beyond once the journey is complete. A congregation prayerfully decides whether to join in the ACTS for Vitality journey. They go through a discernment process, aided by the Synod ACTS for Vitality Team. There is an orientation session to explain the journey and to aid with next steps. There is an assessment of a congregations' openness and readiness to participate in the journey. Once they have decided to continue, the congregation forms a small **Congregational Vitality Team** of four to seven leaders, whose gifts complement one another. The congregation makes a covenant between themselves and the Synod.

The congregation's team joins a cohort of teams from several congregations. In our case, that would be **Holy Redeemer** and **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**. The teams in the cohort then support and hold one another accountable as they participate in the journey.

The cohort meets for a series of seven workshops. Each workshop is structured like a worshipful time together: Word, Meal, and Sent.

During the journey, congregations will have access to skilled, trained, and dedicated coaches. Rostered leaders are also encouraged to become coaches.

During workshops, congregational teams will learn vitality tools and be trained in planning and implementing short- and long-term innovative outreach. They will learn how to reach out to new people, becoming good neighbors and bold followers of Jesus Christ. Congregations will be equipped for sustained response to injustices, with a commitment to authentic diversity.

Our hope is the relationships within the cohort and the wider community become mutually nurturing and sustaining. – *Pastor Tia*

Thanks to Social Ministry! Bonnie Immecker and Betty Wargo were able to give SAVE representatives 21 pillows & pillowcases on June 30, for a total of 1059 donated pillows since the program started in 2011. The pillows and handmade pillow cases are given to those needing SAVE's housing services to help provide comfort. The program has been paused during the pandemic.



FUNDRAISER FOR BACKPACK PROJECT!!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped to raise funds for our Backpack Project while enjoying a Panera meal on June 15th! We received **\$94.01** (20% of CTK sales) which will be used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for children in need in our tri-city area.

OTHER UPCOMING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. You can also donate through the CTK website or send checks to CTK: 1301 Mowry, Fremont, CA 94538. We will be partnering with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Fremont for distribution of backpacks in August – stay tuned for details on how you can help in addition to your financial donations.

BIBLE STUDY/BOOK CLUB: The CTK Book Club will not be meeting again until September 9th. However, you can still join us! While we are not meeting in person during the summer, we are all

reading, “The United States of Grace, A Memoir of Homelessness, Addiction, Incarceration, and Hope,” by Lenny Duncan. The Study Guide for the book can be downloaded from the following link:

https://ms.broadleafbooks.com/downloads/USofG-Discussion-Guide_Final.pdf

This is Lenny Duncan’s newest book. Here is the video of his book launch at PLTS that some of us attended virtually <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOA9m38HKxI>

Please e-mail Debbie Pollak at bartpollak@gmail.com for any questions or if you would like to be added to the email distribution. You can also reach Debbie at 510-825-4816.

CONGREGATION MEETING: Thursday, July 15th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

CTK COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, July 6th at 7:15 pm via Zoom.

JESUS & JUSTICE COLLECTIVE: Sunday, August 1st at 1:00 pm in-person Bridges Community Church in Fremont (505 Driscoll Rd, Fremont, CA 94539).

LUNCH BUNCH: Wednesday, July 14th, at 1:00 pm at BJ’s Restaurant and Brewhouse, 5699 Mowry Avenue, Newark.

All are welcome; many invite their friends. Plan for at least a 2-hour lunch, as it takes more time with a group. Best to bring cash, as separate checks are not always doable. Please RSVP to Roseanne Lawrence.

SEWING BEES COMMUNITY OUTREACH MASK PROJECT: Sewing Bees are still buzzing along. With 16 months of dedication, awesome sewing folks, and support, we've now completed 7,900+ masks. A little bit of sewing continues. 500 masks are on hold and ready for backpacks. Many thanks to our amazing network of caring folks. - Linda Pearson

SOCIAL HOUR: Bring your own beverage of choice, snacks or dinner, sign in to CTK Zoom and join us for a relaxing social hour in your own home on **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**. Since covid restrictions have been relaxed, there is now also an option of occasional in person social hour – stay tuned. Thanks to the Dubels for hosting the first in their backyard this past month. All are welcome!



SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING: Monday, July 12th, at 6:00 pm via Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Immecker.

TRI-CITY VOLUNTEERS FOOD BANK: Tuesday – Friday, 9:00–3:00 pm, drop-off times @ 37350 Joseph Street, Fremont, for urgently needed items:

- Bottled Water (16.9 oz. or Smaller)
- Individually Wrapped Beef Sticks/Jerky
- brown paper grocery bags used for food distribution

No canned goods are needed at this time. Financial donations always welcome! For more information: <http://tri-cityvolunteers.org>

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR JUNE: Total attendance for the respective Sundays in June were: 40, 40, 33 (Father’s Day) and 38 attendees.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JULY (while Pastor Tia is on vacation):

July 4th @ 10:15 am Worship via CTK Zoom, Sermon by Jim Sepeda (THANK YOU!)

July 11th - NO WORSHIP AT CTK; see a list of great alternatives below*

July 18th @ 10:15 am Worship via CTK Zoom with Holy Communion with **Pastor Tita Valeriano**

July 18th @ 11:30 am: Members from the other Tri-City churches will join us at CTK via Zoom for a presentation by Pastor Tita Valeriano of the program **“ACTS for Vitality”** (see article on page 3 of this Table Talk for more details).

July 25th @ 10.15 am Worship via CTK Zoom, Sermon by **Pastor Tim Huff**

August 1st - NO WORSHIP AT CTK; see a list of great alternatives below*

** Some Suggested Alternatives for July 11th and August 1st Worship from Pastor Tia:*

* **In-person:** **10:00 am Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**, Fremont, at their patio.

10:00 am Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, Newark, inside, wear your mask.

11:00 am Bridges Community Church in Fremont (505 Driscoll Rd, Fremont, CA 94539)

* **Online:** Join the **City of Refuge, UCC**, in Oakland via <https://www.facebook.com/cityofrefugeucc>
I promise it will be transformational. Our guest preacher **Carla Halyard** from last year is a lay pastor at that church.

Listen to a shorter service with the **Reverend Dr. Donna Allen**, Founder of the **New Revelation Church** in Oakland and Vallejo. Her sermons are incredibly powerful. <https://www.facebook.com/donna.allen.9883> . Listen to the service any time **after 9 am**.

Some of us have read “Dear Church” by Rev. Lenny Duncan last year, some of us are currently reading his newest book “United States of Grace”. Join him online for his worship services **any time after 9 am or 11 am** via <https://messiahvancouver.org/>



CTK Choir at 6/27 Worship: Barney Tiller (Director/piano), Jason Tiller (assistant extraordinaire), Joe Allen, Bonnie Immeker, Kris Adams, Jim Sepeda, Veronica Pang, Barbara Allen, Pat Cote and Dana Brambley: **THANK YOU ALL!!!**

Sanctuary & Office Repairs

Great news!! We have passed a significant milestone with the installation and inspection of the fire dampers by the City's Building Inspection and Fire Departments this past week.

With the dampers completed, the contractor has been able to significantly clean-up the building including disposing of the bags of damaged building contents that have been piled in the library. Also on Monday, the chairs and other furnishings were temporarily removed from the sanctuary and on Tuesday, all the carpet was removed, the floor was cleaned and prepped for the new carpet and cracks were sealed.

Thanks to Patricia for her assistance in securing the altar linens, candles, Bible, worship books, and many miscellaneous items and also thanks to Alan for securing, bundling and labeling all the cords and wiring to all the equipment in the sanctuary – this should be especially helpful (in theory) to put everything back together once we have occupancy. All old carpet will be recycled by the contractor. The organ is on a platform and has sufficient cable in order for the contractor to move it while they are working on the floor.



Old carpet (upper left)

New carpet (upper right)

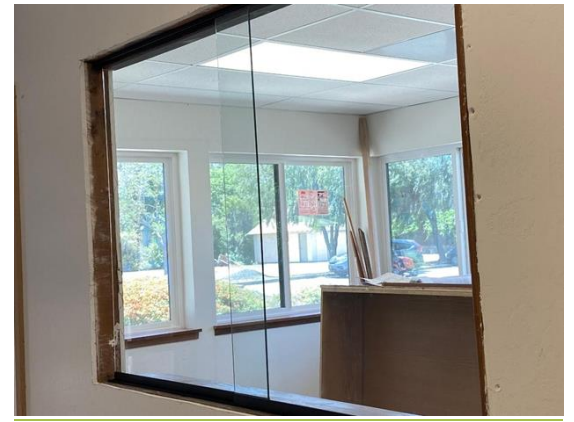
Sealed crack (lower right)

The library (lower left)





Exterior of office



View from hallway through office

It is anticipated the flooring will be complete by the end of next week but there is still miscellaneous work to be done: minor plumbing (janitorial and sacristy sinks), finish ceilings now that the mechanical work has been completed, finish carpentry, installation of shelving in the Pastor's office, completion of electrical, and other tasks – all should be complete by the end of the month.

The most significant outstanding item is cabinetry for the Sacristy and the Printer/Storage room adjacent to the office: all cabinets and shelving for these two rooms were destroyed in the fire and are in the process of being custom designed and made. Thanks to Pat Cote, Patricia Bauer and Dana Brambley for their assistance. The vestments and linens in the Sacristy did survive and are stored in the contractor's container units. I do not yet have an anticipated date of completion and installation but we are hoping this should not delay occupancy of the sanctuary.

We are getting close! I will keep you posted – stay tuned... if you have questions, please contact me. - Peggy Claassen

Celebration of Life for Marilyn Shaner

On June 19th, we finally got to celebrate the beautiful and rich life of long-time CTK member, Marilyn Shaner, who passed away on June 27th, 2020. Many of her friends from church and school came alongside her family to remember her. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church gracefully let us use their space and helped with the setup. Her cousin wrote: "She loved people. Her faith had become the way she lived. Marilyn gave God a beautiful human experience. She was God's statement."

Marilyn was a statement of what it means to truly live faithfully. To love people more than oneself and missing them tremendously when they die. To always grieve the loss of Kim, her only child, while calling so many others "her children." To make hard decisions that not everyone might understand. To accept people's decisions and to keep an open heart ready to connect anew. To find new hope in the faith that God's love embraces life and death. To question God, to doubt and to cry over the losses. To love life to

the fullest and have so many fears at the same time. To fight for her life until the very end. Because God gave it to us and we really only have this one life on earth. Because one can cling to this life and still want to be reunited with their family in heaven. Because God holds all of our complexities and treasures them, even if we sometimes don't.

Thanks to everyone who came (and brought delicious treats)! – *Pastor Tia*

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Eli Adams, Austin Alaniz, Rose Archibald, Dennis Ash, Roxie Banks, Ruth Carpizo, Judy Castro, Randy and Sheila Cooper, Hank Cote, Roger Fajman, **Gary Gardner** (friend of Melinda Kufeld hospitalized with a brain tumor), Hank & Sylvia Hanson, Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Jan Kerbel, Don D. Ketcham III, Bob Lawrence, Christi Loveland, Jacob Montoya, Clare Nielsen, Lenore Olivas-Gee, **Stan Mieras** (Debbie Pollak's brother-in-law suffering from ALS), Doug Sepeda, Betty Wargo and Richard Wightman.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Pat Cote	07/06
Linda Paschal	07/06
Laurel King	07/07
Doug Sepeda	07/08
Katherine Gutierrez	07/10
Keith Bauer	07/10
Keith Glasson	07/11
Alan Claassen	07/11
Jay Graham	07/12
Karen Mueller	07/23
Myrna Stephenson	07/28

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

07/08 John & Christina O'Halloran (26)
07/18 Steve & Kris Adams (40)
07/31 David Vis & Wendy Wolfe Vis (22)



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

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

Barney Tiller, *Music Director*
Dana Brambley, *Church Secretary/Office Administrator*
Christina Bauer, *Webmaster/Designer*

CTK OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

ctkfremont.squarespace

