

Christ the King Lutheran  
Church

June 1, 2020

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## TABLE TALK



### PASTOR'S LETTER

The weather has been absolutely amazing during this past week. So, I have been trying to take the kids to the beach as often as possible. Usually, it's about a 25-minute drive without traffic (one thing I am going to miss one day). On May 28, it took us an hour.

After not even 3 minutes on the road, we suddenly ran into a traffic jam. My "pre-Corona-self" thought "Right, it's 4 pm on a weekday...". Of course, that's not relevant these days. It took me about 3 traffic lights to figure that we had run into a peaceful protest. A group of mostly young people walked in the road, shouting and holding up signs. One said "Justice for Floyd".

I hadn't yet told my kids about the murder of George Floyd by a policeman. Now, I had to. I told them what had happened (a policeman choked a black man to death while arresting him). I explained to them, that this was not the first time that a black person got killed by a policeman and that it can be dangerous to be a person of color in this world. "I am glad we aren't black then," my son replied. It struck me - that was his first reaction? I took a deep breath and re-framed his answer: "You mean, you are glad that we don't have to be afraid to be killed every time we leave the house?" Theo nodded.

What followed was a longer conversation about the privilege we have as white people and what we therefore can do to make the world a safe place for everyone. How we have to step up for People of Color and how keeping quiet just continues to help the perpetrators.

The kids showed great compassion and holy anger towards this immense injustice. Until the group of protesters remained on our road seemingly forever. They literally walked onto the highway. That's when Toni said: "You know, I think it's great what they are doing and it's absolutely right, but we could have long been at the beach by now. This is super annoying. They should just let us pass."

In these three sentences, Toni summarized the entire dilemma of our fight for justice. We want people to have a better life or a life at all. We wish for it from the bottom of our hearts, we pray for it. But when it comes to sacrifice parts of our conveniences, this turns into an inner battle. Usually, our needs win.

The night of George Floyd's death, I had texted back and forth with a Black-American friend. She has 3 kids, her oldest son is 17, her daughter 15. She wrote: "My daughter cried all afternoon about this incident. Tia, it's so difficult for me to relax when my son is out with his friends in the community."

As I read this, I had to ask myself, why I hadn't spent all afternoon crying. And why I only started tearing up when I read my friend's message. Have I gotten used to people getting killed? Or to black people getting killed? Would I have cried, if this had been a white man? Or a white, Christian man? Or a Lutheran or a pastor? How much do I have to relate to a story to be truly touched emotionally? Why is it apparently not enough that it happened to a fellow human, a fellow child of God, created in the image of God? When does a story I hear change my actions?

The new book in our bible study on Thursdays will hopefully help us learn (more) about the great historical and systemic challenges our black and brown siblings live with. Its title is: The Cross and the Lynching Tree. We are prepared for some hard and honest work to face our history, our biases and our choices. To advocate for the mistreated bodies in our country and world. Join us! – *Your Pastor Tia!*

“...FOR IN THE END, WE WILL REMEMBER NOT THE WORDS  
OF OUR ENEMIES BUT THE SILENCE OF OUR FRIENDS.”

-Martin Luther King

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The church is not a building – it is the people... but, it is still a relief to see progress on the fire repairs, finally! Although we won't be able to actually “see” those improvements for a while yet, we know the repairs are moving forward. Somehow, the gas line repairs do not provide the same satisfaction – a trench, piles of dirt and a yellow pipe, holes in the walls – do not make for a good picture. But the site will be cleaned up and we will have heat and hot water in all of our facilities once again. We need to have faith in our church leaders that this will improve – these are just “things” that can be fixed. The health of our congregation and our community – that also requires faith and will be a continued effort over a longer period of time. There will continue to be changes in how we worship even after we are able to get together in person once again in the interests of health – keep an open mind, have faith. We are blessed with a wonderful congregation, a great pastoral leader, and support from many sources including our facility users, Kidango and the Chinese 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church. And we, both as individuals and a congregation, also provide support to many others through this very difficult time and will continue to do so.

Yours in Christ,

*Peggy Claassen, President*

*Know someone who needs extra help during this time of shelter in place?*

*Please let us know by leaving a message at the office (510) 797-3724 or contacting Pastor Tia at (510) 859-5672.*

## FIRE REPAIRS/GAS LINE REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Construction to repair the damage from the 10/31 fire at the Sanctuary started on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Advanced Restoration is estimating the repairs will cost approximately \$200,000, covered by insurance. Damage was caused by a combination of fire, smoke, and water from fire suppression efforts. The main sanctuary suffered smoke damage; improvements will be washing and painting of the walls and carpet replacement. The chairs will be cleaned. The hallways, offices and library have been gutted of damaged construction materials and will require more extensive repairs. Repairs will include framing, roofing, ceiling, drywall, air ducts for heating, lighting, windows, flooring, .... A date for completion is not yet available. Stay tuned...

The gas line repair project is still awaiting permits and inspection from the City of Fremont. The project is approximately 85% complete. The remaining work is completing the connections after inspection, burying the pipeline and parking lot paving of the trench.

Please avoid the construction areas if you have business at the site. Questions? Contact Peggy

## COVID-19 UPDATE

There has been much discussion in the news regarding when churches should resume in person versus streaming. The Council and Pastor Pelz are united in making informed decisions, not based on politics but the health and safety of our congregation and the greater community to the best of our knowledge and ability. Our framework to restructure worship service will comply with the most stringent legal guidelines; within that framework we will build in social distancing guidelines that are suited to our gatherings. The Council has been and will be discussing what those options might look like in order that we may properly prepare ourselves. These discussions will continue at the next Council meeting on June 9. If you have specific ideas that you would like to be considered, please contact me, Pastor or any member of the Council via e-mail. Options that have been mentioned to date are having service outside in the patio area, having multiple reduced size services in Carlson Hall until we can occupy the sanctuary which is more suited to social distancing, continuing with Zoom services either instead of service or in addition to service in person when we are able. We will continue to keep you informed. In the meantime, streaming of service will continue via Zoom on Sunday mornings at **10:15 am**.

## IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Eli Adams, Austin Alaniz, Rose Archibald, Ruth Carpizo, Judy Castro, Randy and Sheila Cooper, Roger Fajman, Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Don D. Ketcham III, Melinda Kufeld, Christi Loveland, America Manspeaker, Laura McCorkle, Jacob Montoya, Clare Nielsen, Doug Sepeda, Marilyn Shaner, and Bob Walter.

## UPDATE ON BACKPACK PROJECT

Decisions have also not yet been made on what class will look like for the coming school year but we know the needs will be much bigger than the previous years. Many families are struggling to put food on the table after facing job loss. There is the need for not only basic supplies but also the tools for online learning. Our backpack team is working with Tri-City Volunteers and FUSD to help identify the needs and expand our funding efforts. Thrivent has approved an application to provide \$250 to go towards purchasing supplies for the project - many thanks to Bonnie Immecker for pursuing this funding! In addition, Bob Kufeld is setting up a GoFundMe page – please stay tuned for details. 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: COVID-19 MASK PROJECT

To date, the Sewing Bees group has made over 900 masks (!) that have been donated to a variety of organizations: SAVE, HERS, Abode, Kaiser, Hillside Senior Care, Carlton Plaza Assisted Living, Aegis Gardens, Windsor, Fremont Hills Assisted Living, Park Central and most recently, the Navajo Nation. Thanks to the sewing group and supporters: Linda Pearson, Patricia Bauer, Jeanette Ip, Debbie Pollak, Debbie Haigler, Kris Adams, Alka Bazaj, Melinda Kufeld, Betty Wargo, Marsha Brass, Lisette McBride, Laurel King, Pushpa G., Bonnie Immecker, Roseanne Lawrence, Carol Lowe, Marsha Squires and Mary Lee Tripi for their dedication and time commitment to this project. If you would like to donate your time or funds for the Mask Project, please contact Linda Pearson – both are still needed, even if you don't sew.

## UPCOMING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Book Club/Bible Study:** Join us via Zoom on **Thursday mornings, 10:00 – 11:30 am.**

The next book to be 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.

**Devotions with Bethesda:** Visit with our Bethesda friends - join Pastor Tia on Zoom **Fridays from 2:30 – 3:00 pm.**



Pastor Tia started to meet with our members at Bethesda via Zoom on Fridays at 2.30 pm for a lively half an hour.

We check in with each other, sing, dance, listen to a biblical story and pray. You are welcome to join us!

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

### Lunch Bunch:

The Lunch Bunch started a new Zoom tradition on May 13th - worked out great! Thanks Kris, Pastor, Roseanne, Bunny, Bonnie



and Barbara. Next Lunch Bunch will be Wednesday, **June 10<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm** via Zoom. BYOLB! (Bring your own lunch and beverage!)

(continued)

**CTK Council Meeting:** June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm via Zoom.

**Orientation for Stewardship 365:** The Synod will provide access to a 90-minute online presentation on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. Please contact Pastor Tia if you are interested for more information.

**Zoom Worship:** Total attendance continues to be strong: 56, 57, 47, 51 and 54 attendees for the Sundays in May. 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.

**Kidango:** will be resume partial operations on June 15<sup>th</sup> at Carlson Center per all applicable provisions of the State of California and Alameda County.

And on a different note, are you passionate about carpet color for your church?

Contact Peggy at: [pclaassen@aol.com](mailto:pclaassen@aol.com) if you would like to be a part of a committee to consider the color of new carpet for the Sanctuary, library, hallways and offices. We will be able to give input to the contractor on the selection of carpet color so this is your chance!

### June Birthdays:

6/03 Melinda Kufeld  
6/11 Bonnie Immecker  
6/15 Elena Bryant  
6/28 Doug Ward

### June Anniversaries:

6/03 Linda & Robert Paschal (42)  
6/09 Becky & Don Shaffer (30)  
6/13 Roseanne & Bob Lawrence (50)  
6/14 Gail & Terry Queenan (51)  
6/17 Peggy & Alan Claassen (42)  
6/18 Tom & Debra Curfman (32)  
6/21 Debbie & Michael Pollak (40)  
6/28 Melinda & Bob Kufeld (40)

### 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*



“WHEN WILL DOMINANT CAINS STOP KILLING MARGINALIZED ABELS? WHEN WILL WE HEAR THE SCREAM OF INNOCENT BLOOD SHED FOR NOTHING, SCREAMING: “LISTEN! YOUR BROTHER’S BLOOD CRIES OUT TO ME FROM THE GROUND.”