

TABLE TALK

MARCH 7TH, 2022

Christ the King Lutheran Church
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PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Saints!

A few weeks ago, I traveled to the big island of Hawaii for the first time in my life. Which is, in itself, incredible. Many of you have been there before and know how extraordinarily diverse the nature and climate are there. How you can feel like being in the Caribbean on the one side of the island with its white sand beaches and gorgeous sunsets. And then, just a couple hours later you stroll through a rainforest and adore waterfalls twice as high as the Niagara falls. Later, you might cool off while swimming with some green sea turtles. It's probably the closest I have ever been to something Eden like.

And then, there are the volcanoes. The ones that erupted years ago and build a beautiful black valley for us to walk through.

The lava tubes to explore. And the Kilauea volcano. Which had been quiet for some years until September 2021. Which was quiet when we arrived at the island. Just to erupt a few days later. When we happened to stroll by.

We had read that standing above the crater was a great spot for beautiful sunrises. So, we got up early and drove there. Just to be 10 minutes late. We hiked



the mile to find others packing up their cameras already. And, while we were still angry at ourselves for not leaving the house even earlier, we overheard some talking about the upcoming eruption, possibly within the next 12-24 hours. The pressure was as high as could be. We gazed down, wondering what an eruption might look like.

There was smoke, but no lava yet. Nothing

happened and we hiked a different crater that day and drove home.

And then, Kilauea did erupt. Not loud, the earth didn't shake. Lava just bubbled and slowly flowed out of the mountain. Like blood welling out. At sunset (in time!) we were back at the same spot we had stood at in the morning. The earth had been broken open and we got a glimpse of its inside. God had touched the mountains and they smoked and spit fire.

I felt small and humble and elevated at the same time. Small given the grandiosity and energy before my eyes. Humble in light of God's might. Elevated because I got to witness such wonders, such birth of new stones and new surfaces. That one-day people will walk upon and hide behind the rocks and wonder how it used to look.

And it made me remember how God creates, how the creation isn't finished. How there are new beginnings that might look like they are destroying old surfaces and paths with heat and fire. Yet, they are building on what has been there. They are reshaping what was, redefining what will be. Bringing fertile grounds for new generations.

It was the most profound experience to feel what it means to believe in God, the creator of the world.

Who isn't done creating. Who keeps creating right in front of our eyes, if we dare to look at it. The results will be dazzling. And frightening at times. And beautiful. Filled with new opportunities for this world and God's people. And all we are left to do is stand in awe, breathe, watch, and explore what's possible.



31 May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

may the Lord rejoice in his works—

32 who looks on the earth and it trembles,

who touches the mountains and they smoke.

33 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

34 May my meditation be pleasing to him,

for I rejoice in the Lord. (Psalm 104,31-34)

Blessings,

PASTOR TIA!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello fellow Saints of Christ the King,

March is shaping up to be an eventful month for us.

First, we are in the Season of Lent, a time for contemplation and sacrifice in commemoration of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us and our salvation. Remember to save your spare change for our Lenten Coin drive. We also accept cash, checks, money orders, stock, or the deed to your house.

On March 6th, this Sunday afternoon, the ACTS for Vitality team is meeting with leaders from our sister congregations to discover synergies, and ways we can cooperate on our joint ministry to the community. We will also begin to consider the future together for our members. We thank you for the visions you shared in the recent break out rooms. We welcome any further insights and you can reach out to Joe, Kris, Pastor, or myself.

On March 13th we will be having a special congregation meeting immediately after service. As I announced last Sunday, we need to deal with a termite infestation in our church roof. These termites are of a species that is not susceptible to Orange Oil, so tenting will be needed at a cost just under \$8,000. We have the financial reserves needed, but this action will require the congregation's vote.

Following our meeting at 2 PM the Jesus and Justice Collective will be hosting a question/discussion meeting of the Mark Charles presentation from November "Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery".

March 27th is targeted for our reopening for in-person service. I look forward to seeing all of you again without a computer screen between us.

Finally, for all you hoops fans, we have March Madness and the end of the NBA basketball season. Go Dubs!

Yours in Christ,

Jim Sepeda

Council President

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

With the learning phase of the Stewardship 365 behind us and the responsibilities of some Stewardship committee members' involvement in the Acts of Vitality Committee, the focus of the Stewardship committee has shifted to occasional opportunities for CTK members and those in leadership roles to learn more about and/or put into practice various Stewardship 365 concepts.

One area of focus will be developing effective listening skills of the CTK congregation which kicked off with Emily Pang's presentation in January. Why do we as a congregation need to develop effective listening skills? (If you missed it, here is Emily's presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxe5G1ptN8A>)





As CTK strives to become more relevant to the community, we need to be able to build relationships with and gain the trust of a broad spectrum of community members. Being able to make community members feel valued, individuals and groups must feel as though their experiences, thoughts, feelings and needs are truly heard. By learning how to truly listen to others, we can achieve the goal of learning the truth of others and identify how we as a faith community or by partnering with others can become a valued resource in the Tri-City area.

The Stewardship Committee and committee members have and will continue to focus on helping to make the City of Fremont's Safe Parking Program a positive experience for program participants and our church. The Safe Parking Program is an opportunity to practice the teachings of Jesus as we assist those who have become unhoused be able to return to, what many of us take for granted, a place to call home.

The committee has shifted to a rotational monthly leadership model. Reach out to any of the committee members listed below to share your thoughts, ideas or concerns.

Your Stewardship Committee,

Kris Adams, Cam Bauer, Alan Claassen, Melinda Kufeld, Linda Paschal, Pastor Tia Pelz, and Debbie Pollak

SAFE PARKING AT CTK COMING SOON!

We are working on getting ready to hopefully host our first guests in the month of May. If you want to volunteer your time at CTK or other churches before May, please send an email to [Special Projects @ CityServe](mailto:SpecialProjects@CityServe).

ACTS FOR VITALITY

As many of you have heard in Joe's and Kris' Temple Talk on February 6th, we are doing some soul searching about the past, present and future of CTK. We tried to identify our values together with you and asked for your input about the future of our church. Thanks to all who participated in the breakout sessions. Pastor Barbara designed bracelets for all of us to wear or hang somewhere as a reminder that our prayers will be needed to the process and wherever it might lead us. For our Acts team the next step will be the second workshop with the Synod and the other 2 churches on March 6. We are also working on a presentation with possible ideas for a future that we will present during worship in March. Stay tuned and keep us in your prayers!!!

A NEW TAKE ON LENTEN COINS

When the annual Lenten Coins program began, many of us emptied coins from our pockets daily or occasionally, our wallets. A table in the narthex was filled with Lenten Coins containers which were a staple for various CTK programs over the years.



Now that many of us frequently use a credit/ATM card or our phones to pay for items, the coin jar, often the source for Lenten Coins donations, has mostly become a thing of the past. Some members have chosen an amount to donate at the end of the Lenten season while others have significantly reduced giving to or no longer support the Lenten Coins program. Sadly, the need in our community has not changed.

It seems to be time for a new take on Lenten Coins which the Social Ministry committee discussed last month. How can we make the Lenten Coins program relevant to CTK members and increase support of valued programs to help those in need in our community? We landed on noting or estimating how much one spends on “treating” his/herself during the Lenten season as a potential giving guide. For example, the amount spent on coffee at the Peet’s and Starbucks of the world. For others it may be midafternoon chocolate, ice cream while watching TV, enjoying a craft beer or nice glass of wine. Treating oneself isn’t limited to food. It could be a trick new tool, pair of shoes, purse or tech item.

This Lenten season, please pause to consider taking a fresh look at a long-standing tradition at CTK. On Easter or a following Sunday, use one of the “Lenten Offering” envelopes and indicate it is your Lenten Coins donation so it will be directed toward programs that provide necessities funded by our collective giving.

Jesus & Justice Events

We had another amazing and breathtaking Online event with Dominique DuBois Gilliard about his book “Subversive Witness”. I highly recommend reading the book as it will help you read some “old” biblical stories in a new light. And it will make you wonder why you haven’t read them in that light before. At least, that was my reaction.

Our next event will be on March 13th where we will take some time to revisit the talk by Mark Charles about “Unsettling Truths”. If you weren’t able to attend that meeting in November, you have plenty of opportunities to watch videos with him on YouTube and/ or read his book. It’s absolutely worth it, absolutely unsettling, and absolutely spiritually enlightening. You will find the link for registration soon on our website.

Lenten Services

Together with the other Tri-City ELCA churches, we will have **midweek Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 6:30PM** throughout Lent. They will be held in-person at Holy Trinity and by Zoom. Please reach out to plc@holyltrinityfremont.org to get their Zoom link as it will be a different one for every week.

Midweek Lenten Services: GLIMPSES – THEN AND NOW

Date	Presenter	Topic
March 9	HTLC	Jesus in the Wilderness – We all crave peace
March 16	CTK	Warned by Pharisees - Discernment means knowing whom to follow
March 23	HR	The Fig Tree - Plants and people both need nurturing
March 30	CTK	The Prodigal Son - There's forgiveness for our prodigal ways
April 6	HR	Mary Anoints Jesus' Feet - Whether it's perfume for Jesus' feet or outreach programs, giving comes from the heart

And this is where we need **you** as dramatic readers. On March 16th we will need 2 readers. On March 30th we will need 4 readers. Please contact Pastor Tia if you have time to lend your voice and talent.

World Premier - Virtual Choir

My colleague and friend Francisco Herrera wrote a beautiful hymn for Good Friday. And together with people from the ELCA churches in Tri-City we want to sing this hymn for the first time! If you are interested in recording a short video, please let Dana know and she will send you the music and recordings. Videos will be due by March 15 and to be submitted to Pastor Barbara at holyredeemer@hrlc-newark.org.

In our Thoughts and Prayers

Eli & Tina Adams, Kris Adams & her family, Austin Alaniz, Rose Archibald, 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, **Chris**

O'Hallaran, 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.

March Anniversaries

Kevin and Patricia Bauer, March 22nd (35)

March Birthdays

Carol Anne Lowe	March 1 st	Julia Lisa Adams	March 16 th
William Robert Kemp	March 9 th	Megan Nicole Kufeld	March 25 th

Other Upcoming Events / Announcements

SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING Monday, March 21st, via CTK Zoom

JESUS AND JUSTICE Mar. 13th, 2PM via CTK Zoom. We will discuss last November's presentation by Mark Charles: "Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery."

LUNCH BUNCH Wed., Mar. 9th, 1PM at The Lazy Dog, 3100 Newpark Mall Road in Newark. Outdoor seating will be requested, pending weather. Gather with us as we share fellowship and celebrate our CTK birthdays. Cost is your order plus tax and 20% gratuity. Contact [Kris Adams](#) (510 468-8709) to RSVP.

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's spring break aka vacation: April 1-8. 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 Megan

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.

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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