

Christ the King Lutheran
Church

May 1, 2021

1301 Mowry Ave.
Fremont, CA 94538
(510) 797-3724
ctkfremont@sbcglobal.net

TABLE TALK



PASTOR'S LETTER

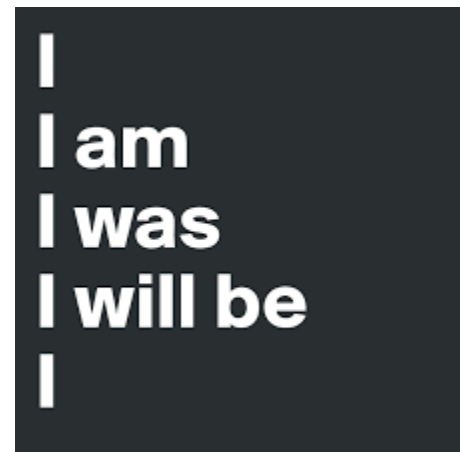
Dear spiritually filled Saints!

We are slowly, slowly walking into our post-pandemic life. Some call it “going back to normal.” I call it going forward with the Spirit of God. Why? Because there is no way back beyond our pandemic experience. We are who we have become. Basically, we are who we are. It is what it is. And it will be, what it will be.

No, I am not just throwing platitudes at you. I am grounding those in the one name our God has used over and over again: I am who I am. I am who I was. I am who I will be. Since Hebrew doesn't know grammatical tense God is who God is: yesterday, today, tomorrow. Which is not to be confused with believing that God therefor is unchangeable, eternally the same. That's at least not what I believe.

I believe that God was changed after building a covenant with Noah. And with Sara and Abraham. And with Miriam and Moses. I believe that God was changed after leading the people of Israel into freedom. I believe that God was moved by Jesus' birth and life. I believe that God was devastated watching Jesus die. I believe that God was never the same afterwards. I believe that God resurrected Jesus Christ because God had felt how final death can feel. How long 3 days can be. I believe that every brutal death, every life lost to suffering and pain, affects God, changes God.

I believe that God sent the dancing Holy Spirit to fill us with life. Daily. I believe that that's what the church is about. To fill our world, our cities, our lives with life. With the church entrusted to be full of the joys of Spring. Which is not necessarily what people have in mind these days when talking about church.



This late Spring, I invite you to embody the joys of this world. The joys of being physically and spiritually alive. The joys of first hugs and first meals after a long season of the unknown. Yes, we don't know what the future will bring. But we know that we will be, who we will be. And that God will be who God will be. With us.

May the Spirit be with you,

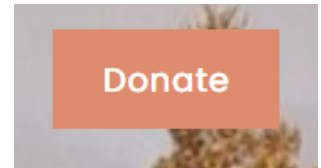
Pastor Tía!

Council President's Corner

Hello fellow saints from CTK,

On the last two Sunday services I mentioned a new software suite, **Breeze**, that we will be implementing at CTK over the rest of this year. It is designed to be used by small to medium sized congregations like ours, and it will be phased in over time with the goal to be fully operational by the first of next year. I would like to give you an overall look at the capabilities it will give us.

The first item you are already familiar with: the ability to make donations to our church and the many initiatives we support. The “**Donate**” button on the upper right corner on our web page (ctkfremont.org) is already in place to bring you to our page for donations. The donations can be one time only, or pre-scheduled on a weekly, monthly, etc., basis to make it as easy as possible for you to manage.



At the heart of the package is the congregation membership data base. We will be initially populating this from our current roster. However, each member of the church will have the capability to edit and approve the information contained and what is visible to others, including a photo if you wish. The membership directory can be searched in a number of ways, based on the data you chose to enter.

Groups can be set up so that a search can be done, for instance to see all the members of the Social Ministry Committee. Communication emails and/or texts can be sent via Breeze to any member or groups, and responses tracked.

Event calendars can be set up in Breeze and seen by any of you. Invitations to events can also be sent out to persons or groups within the member data base. Attendance at events can be tracked via the events module. So, no need to fill out little cards each Sunday (save a tree!).

We will be going into more detail on each module as we implement them in the coming months, but let me know if you have any questions in the meantime (jrsepeda@comcast.net or 510-206-6351).

Finally, we have lots of hidden talents among our members, so if any of you have experience implementing new software packages, we would welcome your involvement.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Sepeda, Council President

Safe Parking - Moving Forward

The City of Fremont is exploring ways to facilitate safe parking for our unhoused neighbors. For that purpose, 10 faith leaders were invited to join the conversation on 3 Wednesdays in March and April, and I was honored to be a part of that.

Through the ELCA I had learned about other ELCA congregations in the Bay Area which are already involved in such programs and I contacted two of those churches for learning and inspiration. Pastor Manda in San Jose and Pastor Sara in Saratoga together with Norman Puck proved to be invaluable. To find out more about their program that very much influenced the City of Fremont's approach, go to the following links:

<https://www.propeace.org/rscpshelter.html>

<https://spselca.org/assts/uploads/2020/01/Church-Together-January-2020.pdf>.

Pastor Sara and Norman met with our council and took time to answer every question we could possibly have. They also agreed to meet with me and the representatives from the city of Fremont to introduce their program. And they met with the entire team again. So many hours of love and dedication towards our unhoused neighbors! You might be able to tell that I was truly proud to be a part of the ELCA!

What is their program? In short: a congregation would host between 15 and 20 cars or vans for one month in their parking lot overnight. After that month, the group of guests moves on to another church parking lot. That way the group can still build some community, while the individual church doesn't burn out its volunteers. The guests can come in around 7pm and would have to leave at 8 am for the day. Guests would be screened by the city and sign a contract with well-designed rules. Breaking the rules is a deal breaker.

The City of Fremont is committed to making this work by helping with financial resources towards porta potties and hand-washing stations, providing social services, taking liabilities for the operating hours, and emptying our garbage. They also provide other community services designed to help the individuals or families find more permanent housing.

This is all still very much work in progress. Together with the city and the other faith leaders we have worked on an ordinance that will go before city council on May 13th at 7pm via Zoom. You are invited to join, listen in, and speak up. It wouldn't be before the end of June that a decision could be made. The program is aimed at starting in September. Faith organizations like Compassionate Network and Tri-City Interfaith Council are currently trying to find more faith partners since this would be a communal and ecumenical effort. Some churches have parking lots but not enough volunteers. Others have people power but no space to host. Others might have none of the above but some funds to contribute.


The 3 meetings so far have been an amazing example of how people from different traditions and religions can come together and work towards a common goal in the Tri City: Loving and helping our most vulnerable neighbors.

There will be lots to organize, lots to decide, lots to think about, lots to pray about for us as a congregation. We will have to find our space in that venture. Stay tuned for more information, and don't hesitate to reach out to me with any question. -- ***Pastor Tia***

“Church, Community, Self: Health & Wholeness in Times Like These” **An Adult Education Forum for CTK & HTLC Congregations (and friends!)**

Did you know that May is National Mental Health Awareness Month in the US? To help mark this month, please consider joining us via the CTK Zoom link for a time of reflection, restoration, and recentering with Tori, the Ministry in Context student from PLTS (Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary).

Over three sessions, we will explore and share how our individual, church, and communal identities have been shaped by the past year, and make space to imagine what the coming year holds. Tori will bring her knowledge and background as a seminarian, a community health practitioner, and mental health advocate. You are invited to bring yourself, your knowledge and experiences, and a willingness to go where the Spirit leads!



When day comes we step out of the shade,
afame and unafraid
The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it.

from: “The Hill We Climb”, Amanda Gorman,
National Youth Poet Laureate

Dates & Times: May 6, 13, 20 (the first 3 Thursdays of May) from 6:30 – 8:00 pm PST.
Access the Forum using the CTK Worship Zoom link (found on the CTK website).

Peace, *Tori*

A New Look at Stewardship, the Currency of Money

Money is defined as a current medium of exchange in the form of coins and banknotes; coins and banknotes collectively. It can be the assets, property, and resources owned by someone or something.

The following is a lightly edited excerpt from Holy Currencies by Eric H. F. Law:

The traditional way that most churches raise money is by asking its members to contribute. Pledging, tithing, and occasional special offerings are all part of their stewardship strategy. If we break out of the linear charity- thinking about money,



we can discover many other ways to develop this currency. Beginning with the currency of relationship, if the church has strong internal and external relationship networks, money can be mobilized to meet ministry needs.

Combining the currency of relationship with the currency of truth, we can broker truth events in which those in need and those with resources can speak the truth in love with each other. As a result, financial wellness will flow in the direction of the poor and spiritual wellness will flow in the direction of the rich, mobilizing the Cycle of Blessings. Truth events can also expose the blockage of financial flow in the community and mobilize members of the community to work together to invest their money in the right places to regenerate a more ethical flow of financial exchanges. When we can speak the truth, representing the experiences of the powerless and marginalized in our community, we can ignite the passion for those who have money to give. Writing a grant proposal is precisely what this is about. Grant agencies decide to give their money to organizations and individuals based on the truth they tell in their proposal to raise up individuals and families in need.

Combining the currencies of time, place and gracious leadership, we can construct creative ways of using our places to bring in financial return. Ministries can practice GracEconomics, a process of Holy Currency exchanges that ensures the ongoing flow and recirculation of currencies to cultivate a sustainable ministry. When applying GracEconomics to the flow of money, it usually means providing a range in which a person can pay for a meal or goods and allowing those who not have money, to exchange other types of currencies such as time, relationship, talent, truth, leadership, etc.

We can raise money to renovate and expand buildings if we can tell the truth about what we have and what will go on in these places. People do not give money for us to make our buildings bigger and pretty; they want to know what ministries of relationship and wellness will be carried out in those places. We can also use external spaces for fundraising, such as asking church members to offer their homes or businesses for fundraising events, or engaging local businesses to raise money for a local need, such as scholarship programs, a youth recreation center, elderly care, etc.

When all the currencies are flowing and our community is well spiritually, ecologically, and socially, money will flow as simply one of the links of exchanges. Church members will give when they realize how the church's ministries have fostered wellness for them and their family. Individuals and businesses in the wider community will give money to support the church if they realize how the church has been part of the constructive flow of resources in their neighborhood, town and city.

We have an opportunity to think differently about the Currency of Money and its place in the Cycle of Blessings - to exam how we have used our funds in the past, consider if past use aligns with the goals of our ministry and ponder changes in the coming years as we strive to become a sustainable ministry in relationship with and relevant to the community.

Stay tuned and be well, your Stewardship Committee

Melinda Kufeld (Chair), Kris Adams, Cam Bauer, Alan Claassen, Linda Paschal, Pr. Pelz, and Debbie Pollak

UPCOMING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: Thursday, May 6th, 13th and 20th at 6:30 - 8:00 pm via CTK Zoom for a time of reflection, restoration, and recentering with Tori Valcarel, our Ministry in Context student from PLTS. The topic is: "***Church, Community, Self: Health & Wholeness in Times Like These.***"

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. Please send checks to CTK 1301 Mowry, Fremont, CA 94538 or donate through the CTK website.

BETHESDA GET TOGETHER AND DEVOTIONS: Join on Zoom **Fridays from 2:30 – 3:00 pm.** for a lively half an hour. We continue to have a lot of fun on Fridays with our members and friends who live at Bethesda.

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

BIBLE STUDY/BOOK CLUB: The Book Club completed their study in April of the 2009 NY Times bestseller, “An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith,” by Barbara Brown Taylor. In May, the Bible Study/Book Club will be on pause to focus on the Adult Education Forum (see details above) in lieu of meeting.

Leaders are requesting input and interest now to plan for Bible Study/Book Club starting May 27th through the summer. Please e-mail Debbie Pollak at bartpollak@gmail.com to indicate your preference of the three options listed below. **Email responses must be received by May 13th.**

OPTION 1. May 27th thru Sep 2nd we will have Bible study on Thursday mornings from 10am-11am (or similar specific time to be decided)

OPTION 2. We will not hold a Bible Study/Book club during this time but will choose a book to read on our own and talk about on Sep 9th (or a date to be decided).

OPTION 3. We will have Bible Study from May 27th thru Sep 2nd as well as read a book on our own and talk about it on Sep 9th (or a date to be decided).

Thank you in advance for your timely response!!!!

If you would like to be added to the email distribution, please contact Debbie Pollak, 510-825-4816 or bartpollak@gmail.com.

CTK COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, May 11th at 7:15 pm via Zoom.

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Tia, Pastor Barbara (Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, Newark), Pastor Tim (Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Fremont) and Vicar Anand (Good Shepherd, Fremont) will continue sharing devotional messages via e-mail.

LUNCH BUNCH: Wednesday, May 12th, at 1:00 pm IN PERSON!!!

MARKET BROILER

43406 Christy St. Fremont (Pacific Commons)

With the pandemic restrictions loosening up, a number of us people from Lunch Bunch feel we can safely meet in person for lunch again. We will restrict ourselves to outdoor seating for the time being to provide an extra measure of safety. Market Broiler was chosen because it has a dedicated patio and it has been a popular choice in the past.

We will be celebrating the CTK May birthdays including Dana Brambley, our new office administrator, and **YES** - there will be birthday cake!

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.

RSVP TO Bunny Dubel via e-mail at: dbdubel@sbcglobal.net or call, (510) 656-3530

SEWING BEES COMMUNITY OUTREACH MASK PROJECT: Thirteen months have flown by with CTK's "Sewing Bees" mask project. Along with supporting a wide range of our community groups, we're now gearing up to make additional face masks for CTK's Backpacks; five in each pack. Wow, what an incredible project!!! To date we've completed **7,300 masks**. And yes, we continue to buzz along welcoming volunteers, donations, and support. It's been a lengthy adventure and we'll continue to journey on with sincere thanks. Bee well and Wear your mask! - Linda Pearson,

SOCIAL HOUR: Bring your own beverage of choice, snacks or dinner, sign in to Zoom and join us for a relaxing social hour in your own home on **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**. All are welcome!

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY MEETING: **Wednesday, May 5th, at 10:00 am** via Zoom. Contact Bunny Dubel if you have questions.

SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING: **Monday, May 3rd, at 6:00 pm** via Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Immecker.

STEWARDSHIP365 LEADERS MINI-SERIES: Tuesday, May 25th, at 7:15 pm via Zoom. The topic for this month is **Holy Currencies of Relationship, Truth and Wellness**. Please contact Melinda Kufeld if you have questions.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY: **May 6th - 8th**. Pastor Tia, Jay Graham and Elena Bryant will be voting members for CTK this year. Thank you, Jay and Elena, for volunteering!

TRI-CITY VOLUNTEERS FOOD BANK: **Tuesday – Friday, 9:00–3:00 pm**, drop-off times for urgently needed brown paper grocery bags used for food distribution., and the following items: **cereal, fruit cups, small applesauce, packaged cupcakes and individually wrapped snack food** (not expired) @ 37350 Joseph Street, Fremont. No canned goods are needed at this time. Financial donations always welcome! For more information: <http://tri-cityvolunteers.org>

ZOOM SUNDAY WORSHIP: Total attendance for the respective **Sundays** in April were: **51 (Easter), 41, 45, and 46** attendees. Maundy Thursday attendance was **36**. Zoom service will continue to be **10:15 am on Sundays**. Reach out to friends and neighbors as a safe and easy way to share in worship, separate but together.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Eli Adams, Austin Alaniz, Rose Archibald, Roxie Banks, Ruth Carpizo, Judy Castro, Randy and Sheila Cooper, Hank Cote, Cori, Roger Fajman, Hank & Sylvia Hanson, Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Jan Kerbel, Don D. Ketcham III, Bob Lawrence, Christi Loveland, **Carol Lowe** (recovering from surgery), America Manspeaker, **Linda Mathre** (recovering from a broken ankle), Jacob Montoya, Clare Nielsen, Doug Sepeda, **Betty Wargo** (recovering from surgery for a broken femur) and Richard Wightman.

Continued prayers for all victims of Covid-19 and of natural disasters as well as victims of violence, hatred and oppression throughout the world.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/01 Robert Rodarte
5/04 Erica Bauer
5/05 Kris Adams
5/13 Cynthia Pollak
5/16 Dana Brambley
5/18 Dennis Ash
5/20 Emily Pang
5/23 Terry Pearson
5/23 Robert Virgilio
5/24 Tori Shaffer
5/26 Barbara Allen
5/26 Debbie Ward
5/26 Wendy Wolf-Vis



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/09 Doug & Debbie Ward (34)
5/14 Cam & Mimi Bauer (27)

Table Talk Articles – Contributor Deadlines

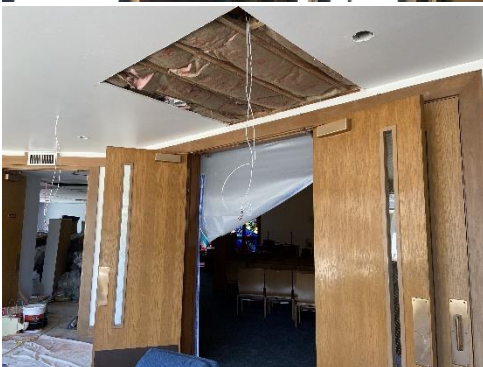
The Table Talk Newsletter will continue to be published and distributed on the first of every month via e-mail. If you have an article or information that you would like to have included in the Table Talk, please send it directly to me no later than **two days** prior to the end of the month. Pictures are welcome as well!

Peggy Claassen pclaassen@aol.com

Update



Just a reminder of how far we have come –the office looking towards the parking lot during construction and as of 4/29/2021.



Sanctuary & Office Repairs

Narthex Ceiling – awaiting additional
HVAC and electrical work

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon for a drop-in socially distanced event. Not too hot, not too cold, one of those rare, perfect days when being outside is a worship service in itself. Fourteen (14) interactive stations of the cross were set-up in the parking lot and patio of CTK. Together, with many volunteers, these stations were prepared for participants to rethink the Passion Story and connect it anew with life on this Good Friday in 2021. Stations were filled with music and pictures, prayers, poems and silence. One started as a walking labyrinth and ended listening to Barney and Jason singing beautifully melancholic Lenten hymns.

Thank you to Bunny Dubel, Jan Holbrook, Elena Bryant, Pat Cote, Jim Sepeda, Patricia Bauer, Christina from Holy Redeemer, Barney and Jason Tiller for your inspiration, energy and time in preparing and sharing your creativity in interpreting the Stations of the Cross! – *Pastor Tia*



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*
Tori Valcarcel, *Ministry in Context Student*

CTK OFFICE HOURS:

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

CTK WEB-SITE:

[**ctkfremont.squarespace.com**](http://ctkfremont.squarespace.com)
