

## NOT-A-TABLE TALK for October 2021



Dear Saints!

It's fall, already and officially! 2021 is nearing towards an end. Which I always find astonishing considering that I still use "2020" as the code word for the experiences of the

past 19 months. Easily forgetting, that almost half of that time was spent in the actual year of 2021.

It's fall. The time when we get ready to cozy up with pumpkin-spiced everything. When we make plans for family gatherings around Thanksgiving and Christmas and start shopping for presents to show our love to the ones we care for deeply. In some cases, that means packing backpacks and writing Christmas cards to our unhoused neighbors as I have recently seen in one of our members' home. Their living-room is literally packed with boxes of backpacks and supply kits and handwritten cards. So much love went into this, so much love will be felt by the people receiving those gifts. It's more than just a backpack with necessities. It's the gift of knowing that people in our community care about the most vulnerable out there, that our neighbors aren't forgotten. That we see them and care for them.

At our book club this week reflected on the question whether and where we have seen God in another person's eyes. Some of us had examples. Many said that seeing God in others is a hard task because we tend to look for the perfect when searching for God. What might help us here is to look to Jesus. Yes, some recognized him as God's son. Yet, to many he wasn't perfect enough. A traveler without a steady address, hanging out with a bunch of guys, often living off other people's grace and generosity. In Jesus God showed up in a perfect way that looked imperfect or even broken to many. Perfect, because Jesus saw others, listened to their experiences, spoke truth into their realities, served them and accepted service. Jesus saw God's kin in everyone he encountered and let people see a glimpse of God through him. In other words: Jesus truly loved whom he encountered. Even the traitor, the persecutor, the liar, the criminal, the tired mom, the exhausted dad, the hard-working woman, the outcasts, the prostitute, the gangster, the corrupt and the tax evader and everyone else.

During this season, in preparation for Advent, I invite you to participate in a Spiritual Practice with me. To try seeing God in other's eyes. To actively look for some connection, some truth, a way to serve and be served. It will be a challenge and an even greater blessing! <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. (1Thess 3,12)

Have a great, fall spiced up with pumpkin and people! Pastor Tia!



**THIS IS NOT A TABLE-TALK.** This is the day you would normally receive a Table Talk if someone had volunteered to take on that responsibility. No one did so far.

Don't worry. You will still know what's going on in our congregation thanks to a weekly updated website (shoutout to Christy Bauer!!!). If you feel like that's enough of an update, great.

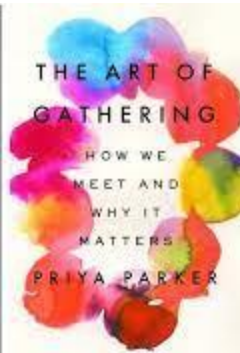


If you would like to read a monthly newsletter in the future, please consider volunteering your time and talent. Peggy has thankfully come up with a great template so it's mostly a matter of reminding people to send in their short articles and to compile them in one document. Dana will send out the finished letter. Let Dana or Pastor know if you are interested in this "behind-the-scenes" job.



On Sunday, October 3rd at 11:30 am Holy Trinity together with Holy Redeemer and CTK will have their annual **Live Blessing of the Animals** via Zoom. You will have an opportunity for your pets to receive a virtual blessing in the comfort of your own home! We'd love to see you and meet your pet or plush animal (they comfort us, too!). Or, if you want to honor a deceased pet, please bring a picture to hold.

If you'd like to attend, please email Keith at [plc@holyltrinityfremont.org](mailto:plc@holyltrinityfremont.org) with your name, email address, and the names of your pets, and he will email you the Zoom information and a bulletin of the service with which to follow along. Please let him know **by noon on Friday, October 1st**, so that we can compile a list of whom to expect. Hope to see you there, pastors Barbara, Tia and Tim!



If you are eager to start into fall by reading (more), I have an idea for you: **The Art of Gathering by Priya Parker**. This is probably one of the most transformative books I have read in a long time. It has changed and shaped the way I look at gatherings. If you have found yourself longing for a well-written, informative, and entertaining book that will change your look at every gathering you have ever attended, this is your chance!



**Check out our Synod's Website!** It's the same as always in an old outfit with spectacular new content, great blog posts and videos to watch every week. <https://www.spselca.net/>





**Our ChemoCare Bag Ministry** was on hiatus until September 2020 when COVID restrictions were lifted, and Joann Fabric opened for in-store shopping! Creative juices are flowing again!

I remain in contact with Vicki Goss, my H.E.R.S. Breast Cancer Foundation contact and provide her with bags and coordinating masks. Vicki fills the bags with puzzles, travel toiletries, plush bear, fleece blanket and other items before final delivery to a Chemotherapy patient.

From October 2020 through August 2021 the ministry has provided 25 bags, 18 scarves, 41 masks, 25 toiletry items, and 2 puzzle books. Earlier this year, we gave bags, without contents, to two dialyses patients.

Since the inception of this ministry in July of 2018, the total number of bags distributed is 97 and 86 scarves plus miscellaneous numbers of toiletries and games/puzzles. In June 2020, we began including 2 masks with each bag. A total of 49 masks have been distributed with bags.

On a recent trip to drop off the latest batch of bags and masks, Vicki informed me that I am the only sewist. All others have moved out of the area. Being a ministry of one is a daunting task, but this is a task I love! Creating something that will help someone in need. Stewardship of Time and Wellness!

Your ongoing support and prayers are vital to this Ministry. Thank you to those who have knitted or crocheted scarves from leftover yarn from prayer shawls. Please keep making scarves! They are needed and appreciated.

If you sew, please prayerfully consider joining me in the ChemoCare Bag ministry. If you don't sew, knit or crochet, donations designated for ChemoCare Bag ministry will help me purchase fabric and sewing notions to make bags. Donations of travel size toiletries or puzzle books are also appreciated.

Please contact me if you have any questions, donations or would like to know how to help.

Blessings and thank you for your support and prayers,

Patricia Bauer



## PONDERING THE CYCLE OF BLESSINGS

As part of planning the Stewardship season your Stewardship Committee has been looking beyond financial commitments and updating a previously used Time and Talents form to reflect our current ministries and various roles/needs.

**When one looks at the form you'll naturally think "Time and Talent", but we encourage you to consider how various roles and opportunities at CTK align with the Cycle of Blessings.**

Start by reading through the Time and Talents form when you receive it.

Then look at the Cycle of Blessings graphic and ponder which blessings each opportunity to share your time and talents aligns with.

- Some will come to mind quickly. They all involve time. Serving on council aligns with Gracious Leadership; the finance committee, Money.
- But what about other Holy Currencies? Which align with relationships? Truth? Wellness? Place?
- Where else do you find Leadership and Money?
- Do many, if not all, align with multiple Holy Currencies?
- Are all of the Cycle of Blessing involved?

**As you ponder your time availability and talents, gifts you can share with CTK members and our community...**

- Do you have a desire to do something not listed?
- Are you aware of a lack of wellness or a need (Truth) in the community that CTK could address?
- Do you know (Relationship) someone or an organization that can support a current or potential new CTK or Tri-City ELCA ministry, by sharing their time, place, leadership, money, in way that will provide wellness?
- If so, let us know! Jot it down on the Time and Talents form or send an email or call any Stewardship Committee member.

Regarding the Acts of Vitality, the Stewardship committee will have a strong presence with half the CTK Acts of Vitality contingent being members of the Stewardship committee. Reason being that the concepts we've learned from the Stewardship365 and Holy Currencies program have given us vital concepts and tools that, when put into practice, can facilitate bringing our congregations together.

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



Wednesday, October 13, at 1:00 p.m. at El Patio, 37311 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. All are welcome. Invite friends if you wish. Plan 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 Bonnie Immecker.







Thanks to everyone who worshipped with us on September 26<sup>th</sup>, listened to Laurie Flores' Temple Talk on Safe Parking, engaged in our breakout room, and even stayed on for the Q&A after the service. Thanks for giving your time to find ways of welcoming our unhoused neighbors and helping them get a good-night sleep (or as good as it gets when

sleeping in a car), because they can feel safe in a parking lot. If you want to know everything in detail and in written, please reach out to Pastor Tia. You will then get a package of information that basically addresses every question we at council and social justice have come up with in the past 6 months. Please keep us in prayer as we discern our abilities to help some of the most vulnerable neighbors.



Mary Lee	Tripi	October 03
Mimi	Bauer	October 06
Christy	Bauer	October 17
Bob	Lawrence	October 28
Linda	Pearson	October 26
James	Sepeda	October 30

Anniversaries:

Jay and Georgia Graham October 21, 1978



**IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS**

Eli Adams, Austin Alaniz, Rose Archibald, Dennis Ash, Roxie Banks, Dianne Burns, Ruth Carpizo, Judy Castro, Randy and Sheila Cooper, Hank Cote, Kathy Covey (the Lawrence's daughter-in-law), **Madison Covey-Taylor** (the Lawrence's grand-daughter), Ellie David, **Dave Dubel**, Roger Fajman, Gary Gardner, Hank & Sylvia Hanson, Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Jan Kerbel, Don D. Ketcham III, Howard Larsen (Bonnie Immecker's brother-in-law), Bob Lawrence, Christi Loveland, Clare Nielsen, Stan Mieras, Doug Sepeda, Mark Sullivan, Betty Wargo and Richard Wightman.

