

TABLE TALK

NOVEMBER 1, 2021

Christ the King Lutheran Church
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PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Saints!

Every Friday night, we have family movie night. We make caramelized popcorn, open a soda for the kids, pour a drink for the adults, and chill on the couch.

During Covid, we learned that we are not the only family with that tradition. Who would have thought? Our bubble family happens to have the same routine. So, we started hosting

joined movie nights. The kids and I would walk over to their place half a block from us. Four kids would cuddle on the couch, scream and laugh hysterically at the old Disney movies. Us adults would watch, drink wine and reflect on the past week. Simply wonderful.

After about 6 months, my kids started saying that they didn't really want to go over to the other house on Fridays anymore. Or at least not every week. Every Friday morning, they started asking: "Who's movie pick is it tonight? (It's a rotational system among our bubble family.) What's the pick?"



By about 5 pm the other bubble would text the choice to us, and my kids made their decision accordingly. While they love our bubble and aren't getting tired of basically spending most of the weekend with them and us, Friday nights started to change. It took me another 4 months to figure out why!

My kids and I are always welcomed at our bubble's movie nights. But Toni and

Theo never got included into the rotation of who gets to pick the movie. They are welcomed but not a part of that particular group holding the power to decide what to watch. They are welcomed but their presence doesn't change anything about the way Friday nights are held. They are welcome, but they don't belong. (Interestingly, they don't have that feeling on any other day during the week at our bubble's house!) Their presence doesn't affect the routine at all, they are invited as guests, not participants.

Of course, being a pastor, I couldn't help but compare this situation to our churches. How we all claim to welcome all. Often capitalized. ALL ARE WELCOME! We welcome people into our home church. Into our space where we belong because we are the ones keeping the church open. And where we often unintentionally decide who is really welcome. Because, again, it's our space.

Which is great. But welcoming is not enough. Church is about belonging. About having a say. Every new member should change the church at least a tiny bit by adding one's gifts, one's passions and stories to the lovingly knitted web of ancient and current stories. Church is about rotating the movie pick among all the members, the oldest and the newest.

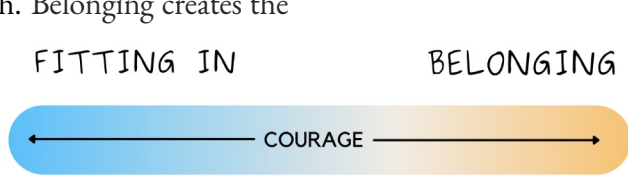
In our communities, diversity is a fact. Whether or not we include people from all different kind of backgrounds, is our choice. While belonging is a feeling that can be enforced by a culture that we can purposefully create. By making people feel seen and valued for who we really are. For our own authentic selves. Including our quirky movie picks. Then, we will thrive. And so will the people around us. Because we will learn so much. Belonging creates the trust that's needed for people to share their best thinking and put their craziest — and, perhaps, least popular — ideas on the table. Not belonging renders people silent. They will slowly disengage and find reasons to stay away or to not come in the first place. It will be hard to find out whose "fault" it was or what went "wrong". Everyone was friendly and welcoming.

Now, some might say: But if you come to my house or my church, I expect you to honor my traditions and my way of doing things. Fair enough. Yet, we shouldn't be surprised if our congregations start

resembling museums more than dwelling places for God. We might be beautiful to look at, precious in helping people remember the past. Anthropologists might love to study us. But we won't be a church which keeps reforming. Not for the sake of change but for the sake of all the Saints God wants to add to her household and call her children. For the sake of Jesus Christ, who is the only cornerstone that actually grows.

Yes, you are welcome! And most importantly, you belong here. You may even pick a movie! Or the topic of the next bible study! Or the place! Or you might tell us that you need something entirely different. And then, we will listen, ask, listen, and figure it out together. That's what members of the one household of God do.

¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Eph. 2,19-22)



You belong to Christ! And if you don't feel that in our congregations, we want to change that! (Yes, it's

changeable. After I brought up my observations with our bubble family, we decided to include the kids in the rotation. It made all the difference!)

And if you need some fun music, listen to this song: [Everyone Belongs!](#)

Because, YOU BELONG HERE!

PASTOR TIA!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Advent is a time to ready ourselves for the coming of Christ, and begins at the end of November. It is a time of waiting and preparation. The next month will be a time of preparation at CTK for the coming year, and may have a profound impact on the future of our church, and the ELCA in our community.

On November 7th the first ACTS for Vitality meeting will take place to begin looking at ways 4 separate churches in our denomination can coordinate efforts to impact the Tri City area as one combined faith community. How can we best share the Good News of Christ in works for the betterment of our neighbors, and set examples that may attract new members to our faith community? Soon after, on November 14th you will all be invited to vote on whether we will participate in the Safe Parking Program with the city of Fremont. Could this be the correct "vehicle" for us to realize the goals stated above. Meanwhile, your Finance Committee and Church Council will be putting together a budget to present to you in December for the coming year. And of course we will all be celebrating Thanksgiving, and shopping for Christmas presents.

Please pray for the Holy Spirit to light our path and give us all the wisdom to make correct decisions for God's people.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Sepeda

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee has been meeting since late August working on estimating expenditures and projected income for 2022. We had a few meetings in September and October and are planning to present a proposed budget to church council in November. The council will approve a budget in November for submission to the congregation for approval in December's meeting. Many thanks to the Finance Committee members: Kevin Bauer, Jay Graham, Peggy Claassen, Debbie Pollak, Joe Allen, Laurel King, Jim Sepeda, and myself.

In God's peace,

Bob Kufeld, Finance Committee Chair

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

A New Look at Stewardship – **What are *your* thoughts?**

How is this “Stewardship Season” different than in the past?

What are your thoughts about the addition of the commitment to support a non-profit in addition to CTK to the Estimate of Giving form?

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 “Gift to Give” form emailed on Monday, Oct 25 or send an email or call any Stewardship Committee member.



Have you gained insight into the Cycle of Blessing and the Holy Currencies we’ve focused on to date - Money, Gracious Leadership, Time & Place and Truth?

Are you looking forward to learning more in November about the Holy Currencies of Wellness and Relationships?

Can you see how interconnected the Currencies are? How combined they constitute a Cycle of Blessings?

Is it essential the Cycle of Blessings flow? *Why?*

Thank you to all who returned your Estimate of Giving. More were returned that last year even with the reduced period that they were requested to be returned.

If you’ve yet to complete the “Gifts to Give” form, please do so very soon. Either...

- Print, complete and send/drop off at CTK
- Complete the Gifts to Give form in Word and email to melinda.kufeld@gmail.com
- Or contact Dana to send you a printed copy to complete and send/drop off at CTK

Collectively we can accomplish more as a body of Christ and make a difference to the congregation and in our community!

Your Stewardship Committee

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

JESUS AND JUSTICE

On October 17th the South Bay Community Church hosted our second Jesus & Justice meeting. With 54 people in attendance from 10 churches in the Bay Area, this was an afternoon filled with storytelling, wrestling with hard truths and learning beautiful new things. We followed a Chinese American family from San Francisco on its journey to Mississippi. And suddenly, the young man from the Bay area wasn't the first one born in the US anymore. But his great-grandfather had already been born here. Belonging in this country became a totally new story for that family.



Don't forget to **sign up by Nov 5th** via [this](#) link for the next event held via Zoom on Nov 7th! Even if you can't make it that day since a recording will only be available for registered people.

A LOOK INTO OUR SANCTUARY



We are using the time waiting for the opening of our church building by getting ready for that long anticipated moment. In cooperation with the worship committee and help from Mimi and Kris, we rearranged the chairs in our sanctuary. They now serve 3 ideas:

1. The chairs are to keep us safely distanced.
2. Yet, they help us feel more connected. We reduced the number of chairs and stacked up the others in the back for larger services. That way there will be less empty chairs and more of a cozy feeling many of you enjoyed at Carlson Hall.
3. They represent that in our worship service everyone is an active participant. While sitting you will not only look to the altar, but also get an intentional glimpse of the fellow worshipers. Worship is not a performance, it's a holy play we all put on together.



Safe Parking Update

Thank you to everyone who listened to the Temple Talks by Laurie Flores and Norman Puck. During our October session, council decided that we have gathered enough information about the Safe Parking Program to bring it before the congregation for a vote. Currently, Alan, Pastor and the social justice committee are working on bundling the information in an accessible way to all. **On November 14th, we will hold a special congregational meeting**, which will include a presentation of the program. Two documents will be sent out to you in advance!

33rd Annual City-Wide Thanksgiving

League of Volunteers (LoV) is again having a drive-through distribution of Thanksgiving meals for those in need. Volunteers will be needed to help carve turkeys, put together food to go, deliver home bound meals and work in the parking lot taking food to waiting cars.

Items needed for the Thanksgiving meal include pre-cooked hams, boxes of mashed potatoes, Stove Top stuffing, cooked dinner rolls, sliced sandwich bread, cranberry sauce. Also, any other non-perishable food items are needed for extra boxes of food for those in need.

Donations may be dropped off at League of Volunteers, 8440 Central Ave., Suite A/B, Newark, Monday through Friday, 9AM–4PM.

See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information.

Bonnie Immeker

Sewing Bees Update

During our twenty phenomenal months of buzzing, Sewing Bees have created over 9,000 amazing masks. Now with masks easier to obtain and the needs declining, I am finally working towards closing-up the hive. Wow, what an amazing project.

In fact, as we close up shop, we near the celebration of All Saint's Day. This amazing group of mask makers, prep team, and donors are indeed true Saints. All have been a blessing to the community and those in need of being more protected from COVID-19.

While mask making has certainly been one of CTK's more prominent recent projects, amongst our many other sewing efforts volunteers and friends have worked on making eye-catching pillow cases for SAVE and Chemo-Care Bags.

We are all true participants in "God's Work, Our Hands". Christ the King has had plans to Honor all of our incredible volunteers with a special service of thanks and a nice lunch. Yes, the plans keep getting pushed back, waiting for our sanctuary's reopening and the easing of COVID-19. Please know that we will share the invitation for the volunteer celebration once a date is available. Until we gather to meet in person and say thank you, we are warmed by the blessing of volunteers.

Bee Well,

Linda Pearson

November Anniversaries

Katherine & Gabriel Gutierrez (4)

November Birthdays

John Burnett	11/08	Philipp Pelz	11/12
Toni Pelz	11/14	Joseph Allen	11/17
Robert Paschal	11/25	Tony Pang	11/28

In our Thoughts and 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), Ellie David, Roger Fajman, Gary Gardner, Hank & Sylvia Hanson, Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Jan Kerbel, Don D. Ketcham III, Howard Larson (Bonnie Immecker's brother-in-law), Bob Lawrence, Christi Loveland, Clare Nielsen, Stan Mieras, **Angelica Ruiz**, Doug Sepeda, Mark Sullivan, Betty Wargo and Richard Wightman.

Other Upcoming Events / Announcements

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEETING Monday, November 15th, 6PM via CTK Zoom

ACTS FOR VITALITY PREVIEW On Nov 7, our Acts for Vitality team (Jim, Kris, Joe and Pastor) will meet for the first time with the teams from Holy Trinity and Holy Redeemer, facilitated by 3 amazing consultants. Please pray for this journey, for us to listen closely, to speak what we need to say and to leave a lot of space for the Holy Spirit to do her magic of connecting people!

LUNCH BUNCH Wednesday, Nov. 10th at 1PM, gather with us at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse on Mowry in Fremont as we fellowship and celebrate our CTK birthdays. Contact [Kris Adams kresl@comcast.net](mailto:Kris.Adams@comcast.net) to RSVP.

LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR IN TRI-CITY We all love Advent, right? And those cute Advent calendars that shorten and sweeten the wait. This year, we invite you to participate in a "Living Advent Calendar". Starting Nov 28th, every Sunday and Wednesday until Christmas Eve, one household will host a gathering in their driveway or front yard at 5 pm. We will sing carols, listen to old and new stories and have time to connect with new and old friends over drinks and goodies. **If you would like to host, contact Pastor Tia or Dana.**

TRI-CITY VOLUNTEERS FOOD BANK Tuesday – Friday, 9:00AM to 3:00PM 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)
- Brown Paper Grocery Bags used for food distribution

ADOPT AN ANGEL The Adopt an Angel tags are ready for distribution and I have 30 tags. We will be buying gifts this year, instead of gift cards, for the many children who are in foster care. Please contact me if you want to participate and I can scan the ticket to you or deliver it to you. The tag(s) you choose will have three gift ideas on them and you are asked to buy all three gifts if you can afford it. This is a program we have been a part of for over 15 years and I thank you so much for your participation each and every year. –*Pat Cote*

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL AT ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL Monday, Nov 29th, 6PM-7PM, 37051 Cabrillo Ter., Fremont (Thornton Ave. at Cabrillo). Please join us in person for an outdoor interfaith candlelight vigil to memorialize members of the homeless community we lost this year. Pastor Tia will say a prayer among other faith leaders. **Masks are required for all attendees.** Please bring your canned goods to donate to our food drive. A video will be available for viewing after the conclusion of the event here [here](#).

ADVENT WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP The workshop will be Nov 28th at 2:00 PM at CTK. Advent devotional booklets will be available for everyone to pick up, even if they're not making a wreath. We'll have some goodies and Christmas Carols for the event. Wreath builders must bring their own greens, and we suggest clippers if you have them. Wreaths, candles and floral pins will be provided. Materials cost is \$15, but if that's not in your budget, a "workshop scholarship" can be arranged. Wreath kits and instructional video will be made available for those unable to attend on the 28th. Only a limited number of wreath kits have been ordered. Sign up now on the CTK website to secure yours. –*Kris Adams*

CTK BOOK CLUB is currently reading *United States of Grace* by Lenny Duncan. We meet every Thursday morning. **Our new hours are from 10am to 11am.** Hope you can join us. If you would like to be added to our email list, you can email Debbie Pollak <bartpollak@gmail.com>.

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

Rev. Dr. Tia Pelz, *Pastor*
(510) 859-5672
pelztia@gmail.com
Barney Tiller, *Music Director*
Dana Brambley, *Church Secretary / Office Admin*
Laurel King, *Financial Secretary*
Christina Bauer, *Webmaster / Designer*

Table Talk editor: Jason Tiller, jason@starnull.net

Church office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9AM to 1PM

Website: ctkfremont.squarespace.com

Attachments follow



League of Volunteers

*Serving Children – The Needy – Seniors
in Fremont – Union City – Newark
through your support*

September 24, 2021

Christ the King Lutheran Church
1301 Mowry Ave.
Fremont CA 94538

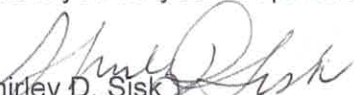
In honor of those who would spent the day alone, and those who do not have the resources, either money or shelter, we have joined together again this year for the **33rd ANNUAL CITY-WIDE THANKSGIVING** for Fremont, Newark, Union City and Hayward. Last year we served 3,391 meals at the Newark Pavilion or to the homebound. Last year we were unable to serve meals in the afternoon in the hall at the Pavilion. We had people come in their car starting at 12 noon at the Pavilion parking lot and line to receive the meals needed. It turned out really well last year and we have to do it again, as we are not able to have people come and enjoy a served meal, with live music and a special play room for children. We will still deliver to those who need it brought to them in the morning as we have for many years.

There are many ways you and your congregation may help.

1. Hold a special offering in November so that your congregation may help in the purchase of needed food items.
2. Post the enclosed flyers and distribute them where needed as well as print the information in your Sunday bulletin. If you should need any more of these flyers, please call.
3. Encourage your congregation to dedicate a portion of their time as volunteers for this community-wide celebration so that others may enjoy the traditional Thanksgiving meal. A flyer listing volunteer opportunities is enclosed. To register to volunteer they may call Harold at 510-793-5683 or visit our website at www.lov.org.
4. Encourage your congregation to set aside extra food items and bring them to our center at 8440 Central Ave., Suite A/B in Newark. We will be giving away boxes of food for the holidays.
5. Pass on the invitation to guests to anyone who might be in need of this meal and fellowship.
6. Advise us of any homebound members who will need meals delivered.

If you have any questions, please call LOV at 793-5683.

Thank you for your cooperation.


Shirley D. Sisk
Executive Director

8440 Central Ave., Suite A/B. Newark, CA 94560
Phone: (510) 793-5683 * Fax: (510) 793-5689 * email: lov@lov.org
Website: www.lov.org * Fed. ID # 94-2638329



**33rd ANNUAL
TRI-CITY THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 25, 2021
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**



IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO WOULD SPEND THE DAY ALONE AND THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES, EITHER MONEY OR SHELTER, TO ENJOY THE TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING MEAL – BECAUSE OF COVID-19 WE WILL BE DELIVERING FOR THOSE IN NEED – AND GIVING OUT PICK UP DINNERS TO THOSE WHO USUALLY COME TO THE NEWARK PAPILLON TO EAT

SOME OF THE HELP YOU CAN PROVIDE:

DONATE MEAL SUPPLIES

CARVE TURKEYS

PUT TOGETHER FOOD TO GO

DELIVER HOME BOUND MEALS

WORK IN THE PARKING LOT TAKING FOOD TO WAITING CARS

YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS A GREAT HOLIDAY FOR OTHERS AS WELL AS YOURSELF. VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED FOR THESE AND OTHER TASKS BEGINNING NOVEMBER 19 THROUGH THANKSGIVING DAY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25th & FRIDAY MORNING NOVEMBER 26th



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 510-793-5683
LEAGUE OF VOLUNTEERS – LOV

GIVE OF YOURSELF THIS HOLIDAY SEASON