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TABLE TALK



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear people clothed in Christ!

What a joyous month it has been. Two baptisms within not even a week, that's quite a record for our congregation. And two candidates for baptism on both ends of the age and faith spectrum.

One baby, Eloise, who just started smiling at people, embracing everyone she meets, bringing instant joy to everyone who gets to see her. It even works over Zoom. I tried it. And one adult, a true lady, Carol, who also smiles and laughs a lot. Apparently, people who want to be baptized, are happy people. At least, that's what the CTK September qualitative analysis suggests.

Both baptismal candidates were clothed in beautiful dresses. Eloise wore a family piece her mom and auntie had already worn for their baptisms. A great symbol of how we become part of a huge, world-wide family of Christians of all times. Carol wore a white and light pink blouse. A strong image of the idea that life even at its hardest, even during a pandemic, can be light and bright when Jesus is involved.

Baptizing a baby and a mature lady within a few days, really shows what baptism is about. It's about pure grace. God gives it to us whenever the time is ripe. Eloise will grow up in a Christian family, with wonderful aunts and uncles, grandparents and parents, telling her about their faith. She will get to explore the Catholic tradition and our Lutheran ideas at Christ the King. She will listen to her brother Robert recite bible verses he learned at his school run by Prince of Peace. She will encounter God in different ways and at one

point, hopefully, be able to say YES to this God. No matter when or how that is going to happen, God's YES stands forever. God will not leave Eloise. That's a promise. Made in baptism. At the beginning of Eloise's faith life.

Of course, the same is true for Carol. And yet, Carol's decision to get baptized comes after a whole life of searching for God. Carol has felt the Holy Spirit very strongly in recent years. She started not only feeling the blessings God provided but also naming God as the source of them. Carol's baptism is not a beginning, it's a seal of her faith. God has already been with her, often unnoticed, waiting for Carol to find out. She did, of course. Because the Holy Spirit knows what she is up to when choosing to anoint people. In her baptism, Carol said YES to God's HELLO long ago.

FOR IN CHRIST JESUS YOU ARE ALL
CHILDREN OF GOD THROUGH FAITH. AS
MANY OF YOU WERE BAPTIZED INTO
CHRIST HAVE CLOTHED YOURSELVES WITH
CHRIST.

Galatians 3: 26-27

So, please welcome our two newest members, Eloise Rodarte (Sarah Ward's daughter) and Carol Lowe (sponsored by Jan Kerbel). And remember, that we are clothed in Christ. That means in faith and hope and love. And that means, to spread the faith, hope and love. Because together with the Holy Spirit we can!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Tia!

OUR NEWEST CTK MEMBERS:

My name is **Carol Lowe** and I was recently baptized in our backyard by Pastor Tia and sponsored for membership in the church by Janice Kerbel. It was a moving experience and I'm grateful for the support I have felt.

My husband (Peter) and I have been retired since 1990. My husband was a computer programmer and I taught first grade in Alameda. In 1990 we started a small store on Piedmont Avenue in Oakland. Pete put images on coffee mugs, tee shirts, etc. I managed the other half of the business of selling rubber stamps. We closed the store late in 1999.



After living in Oakland for over 25 years (for me and longer for Pete), we moved to The Tropics Mobile Home Park in Union City in 2005. I have never belonged to a church as an adult, though I have gone to many! I look forward to being a member of Christ the King Lutheran church!

- Carol Lowe



Eloise Guadalupe Rodarte, daughter of Sarah Ward and Javier Rodarte and sister to Robert was baptized on September 19th.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the newest members of Christ the King!

Fall has been a very busy time for CTK – CTK's first backyard baptisms with creative use of salad and punch bowls, backpacks have been distributed, Stewardship365 is underway, Bible Study has started, Racial Justice Circle continues with learning, reflection and action, masks continue to be made as well as ChemoCare bags, and it's suddenly time for Adopt an Angel – hard to believe.

I continue to appreciate your willingness to give of your time for all things as well as your contributions so that we can continue to serve the members of our congregation and our community. Your adventuresome and creative spirits have allowed us to make many drastic changes in the way we worship, the way we relate to others in our congregation and community and our vision as we move forward.

Yours in Christ,
Peggy Claassen, President

A NEW LOOK AT STEWARDSHIP

Merriam-Webster.com defines currency as “something that is in circulation as a medium of exchange.” Money typically comes to mind when we hear the word currency and often is the primary focus of many CTK stewardship campaigns in the past. Alternatively, CTK learned from the Sierra Pacific Synod of a holistic model for stewardship and congregational vitality that looks beyond money used by many churches with impressive results.

Stewardship365 is an established program developed more than ten years ago by Eric Law, an Episcopal priest and founder/executive director of the Kaleidoscope Institute, centered on the understanding of six key aspects, or Holy Currencies, needed for a church to be sustainable and in relationship with the surrounding community creating a flow of blessings:

- Gracious Leadership
- Relationship
- Truth
- Wellness
- Time and Place
- Money



“The Cycle of Blessings is the dynamic exchange of these six currencies, flowing inward to renew and strengthen internal relationships and increasing gracious leadership capacity, and flowing outward to connect, discern the truth and foster wellness in the wider community.” Learning how to develop, access and “flow” these currencies is an essential skill that members of the church must have in order for the church to be sustainable and missional”/in relationship with our community.

Our newly formed Stewardship committee has begun studying materials, attending trainings and working with our Kaleidoscope Institute coach. We will learn in depth about each currency:

- What is this currency?
- For what can this currency be exchanged?
- How do we value and measure this currency in our ministry?
- How can we develop this currency at CTK?

We will also be able to draw upon learnings from the Kaleidoscope Institute and other “**Stewardship365** churches” who have successfully built upon existing programs or launched new ones or areas of focus.

Through this process, the Stewardship committee will work with our Kaleidoscope Institute coach to develop an extensive action plan and a year-around stewardship movement enabling our church to shift from maintenance to being in relationship with our community, from scarcity to abundance and from fear to grace.

In coming months, the committee will share our learnings about each Holy Currency and share activities that you can do yourself or with others. One simple, yet effective method is “mutual invitation”. When sharing in a group, the first person talks and afterwards invites someone else to share. Who isn’t ready to talk can either pass or pass for now. What’s the great innovation? We find that we must be much more aware of who has spoken and who hasn’t. It’s truly helping the group process. – your Stewardship Chair, *Melinda Kufeld*

Stewardship Committee: Kris Adams, Cam Bauer, Alan Claassen, Linda Paschal, Pr. Pelz, Debbie Pollak

COVID-19 UPDATE & WORSHIP

Still on pause for in person service. The results of Pastor’s informal survey were mixed; we will be exploring how to incorporate perhaps some small group alternative/supplement to our Sunday worship service. Worship Service will continue via Zoom on **Sunday mornings at 10:15** am until further notice. Stay safe and stay tuned...

LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS MEET TOGETHER;
JUSTICE AND PEACE KISS EACH OTHER.

Psalms 85:10

RACIAL JUSTICE ACTIVATION CIRCLE

Each week we have a list of “readings” to choose from, reflect on and discuss with others in our group. The readings are broad and meant to engage the reader into learning, reflection, and actions toward racial justice. We are challenged to dig deep within ourselves to see where we each fit into the racial justice spectrum. The readings include lectures, magazine articles, Ted Talks, videos and even some photographic essays. I have learned about the history of Slavery in the US, how “White” became a race, red lining in housing, white privilege and the inequity in education, housing, jobs and pay for people of color. I have dug deep within myself and have found ways I have failed with racial justice in the past by what I have done or left undone – said or left unsaid. I am learning ways to be more aware of and “just” with my words and actions toward all people. - *Gail Queenan*

CHEMOCARE BAG MINISTRY

Our ChemoCare Bag Ministry had a setback due to mandatory quarantine orders. During that time, we also lost a valuable member of the team; Gail Queenan moved out of the area. Thank you, Gail, for sharing ALL your gifts and talents with Christ the King!

In March 2020, we received a large amount of donated fabric from Vicki Goss, one of our H.E.R.S. Breast Cancer Foundation contacts. The beautiful fabrics were the perfect texture and weight for lining the bags. Unfortunately, before we could get to the store to purchase the complimentary outer fabrics, COVID-19 paused our good intentions. As luck or God’s will would have it, I was able to find fabric enough for 4 ChemoCare Bags in our donation storage room in Carlson Hall. These bags plus 8 masks were delivered to H.E.R.S by Bonnie Immeker in June 2020, bringing our total number of bags donated to 88.



Now that the fabric stores are open for in-store shopping, our ChemoCare Bag Ministry is back in action. The perfect outer fabrics were purchased to complete an additional 9 ChemoCare Bags. We are also including two matching masks with each bag. These bags will be delivered to Vicki Goss so she can add her personal touch, filling the bags with puzzles, travel toiletries, a plush bear, a fleece blanket and other items before final delivery to a Chemotherapy patient. Your ongoing support and prayers are vital to this Ministry.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to help.

Blessings and thank you for your support and prayers! - *Patricia Bauer*



FACE MASKS

Regarding the mask project, we are rounding the corner to **3,200** masks from our amazing Sewing Bees. We feel so blessed to do this project to support our community, while also staving off a little pandemic boredom.

We also want to note: we continue to welcome more participants to sew and even cut fabric for us. Spread the word!!! - *Linda Pearson*

TRICITY VOLUNTEERS FOOD BANK

Tricity Volunteers (TCV) is in urgent need of **brown paper bags** for food distribution to those in need. Bags can be dropped off **Tuesday thru Friday from 9:30 am – 3:00 pm**. **Note:** after 1:00 is preferable for drop-off due to traffic (same line as the food distribution line); volunteers will take donations from your trunk. They are now also accepting shelf stable canned foods - **NO DENTED OR EXPIRED FOODS!!!**

TCV is a nonprofit, the largest client-direct food bank in this area, serving over 16,000 individuals every month. Many of the clients come from migrant families, are underemployed or are facing unemployment due to barriers including Covid-19. **Location:** 37350 Joseph Street, Fremont (cross street is Peralta Boulevard).

FIRE REPAIR UPDATE



Not too many changes – progress has been slow while the contractor awaits City approval for the electrical and mechanical improvements concurrent with the work being performed. Interior drywall will occur after the electrical and mechanical improvements.

The sanctuary has been painted and preliminary work has been started for the electrical. The exterior stucco and stone are supposed to happen at any time I am told.

It has been almost a year since the fire – many of the delays were a result of restrictions because of Covid19 but the end is in sight. Completion of the construction is expected in November. Questions? Contact Peggy

BACKPACK PROJECT DISTRIBUTION – 9/2/2020

A total of 55 backpacks were distributed at Musick Elementary School in Newark – thank you to all for your financial contributions and the donation of time to organize, coordinate and distribute!! (See page 8)

UPCOMING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADOPT AN ANGEL: Each year, **Adopt an Angel** calls on the community to help provide for children who, through no fault of their own, are in shelters, group homes or foster care under the auspice of Alameda County Protective Services (ACPS) and Terra Firma. These children hope Santa will make a visit and fulfill a Christmas wish. Your help is needed to make their wishes come true. This year, Adopt an Angel is hosting a **\$25 Gift Card Drive** in lieu of physical gifts due to safety restrictions from Covid-19. Donate a \$25 gift card from Amazon, Target, Walmart or Visa and sponsor a child this holiday season. Distribution will be through ACPS and Terra Firma to needy children. Text, call or e-mail **Pat Cote (510) 928-1317** or pacote99@gmail.com for more information. Gift cards will be needed no later than **December 1**.

BIBLE STUDY Update: **Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:15/11:30 am.** CTK Bible Study via Zoom has met twice in abbreviated sessions lasting about 45 minutes to an hour every Thursday. Please note the start of our study sessions has **changed to 10:30 am**. Each week we focus on the upcoming Gospel or scripture identified by Pastor Tia. We have adopted the Bible study format from our **Stewardship365** program (Kaleidoscope Institute) which focuses on beginning with prayer, reading and discussing the selected text. Prior to closing with the Lord's Prayer, we have time for personal prayers.

We have found that this is a great way to connect with fellow Christians, prepare for Sunday worship and open your heart with prayer. Please consider joining us even if it is only a one-time visit.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to our email distribution, please contact Pastor Tia or Patricia Bauer, cell 510-825-8547 or bauerin83@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB: Will resume in mid-November.

CTK COUNCIL MEETING: **Tuesday, October 13th at 7:15 pm** via Zoom.

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

GET TOGETHER AND DEVOTIONS WITH BETHESDA: Join on Zoom **Fridays from 2:30 – 3:00 pm**. for a lively half an hour. Catch up with our friends, sing, dance, listen to a biblical story and pray. All are welcome! Pastor Tia to facilitate.

LUNCH BUNCH: **Wednesday, October 14th, at 1:00 pm** via Zoom. BYOLB! (Bring you own lunch and beverage!)

PET BLESSING: **Sunday, October 4th** - contact Pastor Tim at plc@holyltrinityfremont.org with the animal's name and that he would send the information to attend. You can also go to the website holyltrinityfremont.org.

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 (10/7, 10/21 and 10/28) at 7:00 pm**. All are welcome!

SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING: **Monday, October 5th, at 6:00 pm** via Zoom. (tentative – check website calendar for changes)

ZOOM WORSHIP: Total attendance continues to be strong: 42, 44, 49, and 45 attendees for the respective Sundays in September. 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 (celebrating his first birthday this past month!), Austin Alaniz, Rose Archibald, Ruth Carpizo, Judy Castro, Randy and Sheila Cooper, **Cori** (Pastor Tia's close friend), the friends and family of **Rich Fadness** (friend of Pat Cote), Roger Fajman, Hank & Sylvia Hanson, Nikki Jackson, Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Don D. Ketcham III, Christi Loveland, America Manspeaker, Laura McCorkle, Jacob Montoya, Gail Queenan, Terry Queenan, Clare Nielsen, Betsy Rothley & family and Doug Sepeda.

Continued prayers for all the fire victims, victims of violence, hatred and oppression throughout the world as well as those in need.



October Birthdays

10/3	Mary Lee Tripi	10/26	Linda Pearson
10/6	Mimi Bauer	10/28	Bob Lawrence
10/17	Christy Bauer	10/30	Jim Sepeda
10/18	Valerie Salisbury		

October Anniversaries

10/15 John & Lilia Burnett (24) 10/21 Jay & Georgia Graham (42)

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
Barney Tiller, *Music Director*
Ina Ketcham, *Church Secretary/ Administrator*
Christina Bauer, *Webmaster/ Designer*

CTK OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Thursday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
(not open for in person business or visiting)

Know someone who needs extra help during this time? Please leave a message at the office (510) 797-3724 or call Pastor Tia at (510) 859-5672



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