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TABLE TALK



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Church!

That's the title of the book we are currently reading with our Book Club/ Bible Study at Christ the King. The subtitle states: "A love letter from a Black preacher to the whitest denomination in the U.S." It's a love letter to the ELCA by Lenny Duncan.

Let me say this: it's a true love letter. One of the kinds we rarely receive. It's full of beautiful images, personal stories. And it's full of truth. A truth we need to hear and ponder about and a truth that can be hard to stand.

Lenny loves the ELCA deeply. He sees the best in us. And he sees the many barriers that keep us from being who we want to be. We claim to be "welcoming to all". We claim to not judge people by the color of their skin. And yet, Lenny has quite a lot of stories to tell about microaggressions and racism he and other friends of color have experienced in our Lutheran churches. And yet, a Black seminarist looking for a first call often must wait for years because most churches still don't call Black pastors.

At times, the book is all harsh critique, all about the log in our eyes. Talking about how our liturgy follows a "Black and White" symbolism from darkness to light. Talking about how a white supremacist like Dylan Roof is not just coincidentally Lutheran. We at the book club have wondered: Why does Lenny stick to our church? And we have to answer the question: ***"Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:3)***

The answer is simple: Lenny loves the ELCA.

The openness, the unconditional love some people have shown him, the amazing grace given to us by God. When he first entered an ELCA church he ran into a pastor who

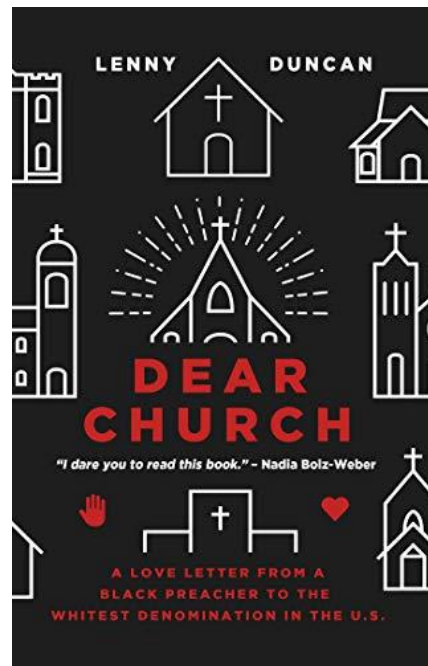
invited everyone to the table of the Lord. Lenny had never experienced that before. When he was in seminary without a lot of money, some people from his church stepped up and bought him all the Christmas presents on his list. When he felt down and weary, there was always someone to catch him, pray for him, care for him, show him the love of God.

That's the most important lesson I take away from this book. That there is hope. That we are resurrection people. People who don't get threatened to death by death. But people who open up tombs and follow the risen Lord. No matter how few might believe us at first.

What we as individuals do, matters. We don't have to wait for the entire church or

country to change. We can be the change and we will be the change. Day by day we can build the kingdom of God, a kingdom of justice and peace, filled with hope and love. Filled with backpacks for kids in Newark and with masks for everyone around us.

"We put money and resources toward what we care about in this church.", Lenny writes in his book. We do indeed. That's why I am so grateful to the people of Christ the King,



that we are going to put resources towards Racial Healing. Over the last months I have been developing a curriculum for a **Racial Justice Activation Circle**. This work has left me changed. I am much more comfortable talking about racism, talking about my own racist thoughts and behavior and I feel closer to my Black friends and neighbors. I will never entirely share their pain, but my heart hurts and my soul cries to God and my mouth speaks out against injustice. Starting **September 7th**, you are invited to join or continue

that journey.

Please register under :

<http://ctkfiremont.squarespace.com/racial-justice-circle-2020>.

Let's start seeing the log in our eyes. (Mine was surprisingly large.)

Hopeful blessings, Pastor Tia!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Many thanks to all of you who volunteered to provide rooms for potential CTK evacuees of the CSU Fire Complex last week. Your generosity is amazing especially in light of the current Covid 19 health concerns. We continue to keep the victims of the fire and the emergency responders to this event in our thoughts and prayers and hope for containment in the near future. I am looking forward to blue skies once again.

Yours in Christ,

Peggy Claassen, President

FIRE REPAIRS/GAS LINE REPLACEMENT UPDATE



The gas line repair project is complete!

The multiple underground gas leaks were not caused by the 10/31/19 fire but discovered when the gas was turned on after the fire. As such, these repairs are not covered by insurance. Total costs are \$45,000. Kidango generously donated \$10,800 towards the repairs. The remainder is funded by reserves.

As for the fire repairs, the exterior water proofing membrane has been completed and the stucco finish is scheduled to be installed the first week of September. The contractor is awaiting City approval for the electrical and mechanical improvements concurrent with the work being performed. Interior drywall will occur after the electrical and mechanical improvements.

Questions? Contact Peggy.

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 tuned...

PROGRESS ON THE 2020

“BACKPACK” PROJECT(S):

- **On August 24th**, Bonnie Immecker and Patricia Bauer delivered \$250 of supplies funded by a grant from Thrivent to the annual Fremont Kiwanis’s sponsored a **Stuff the Bus** event. Over **97 boxes of supplies** were collected this year for distribution to students in need through the Fremont Unified School District.
- **On August 28th**, Melinda Kufeld fulfilled a request through CityServe Compassion Network from the City of Fremont Resource Center for **20 unfilled backpacks** to be distributed to needy families.
- **On September 2nd**, CTK volunteers (Kris Adams, Steve Adams, Patricia Bauer, Pat Cote, Bunny Dubel, Bonnie Immecker, Bob Kufeld, Melinda Kufeld, Karen Mueller, Pastor Tia Pelz, Debbie Pollak, and Jim Sepeda) will be providing oversight and distributing **55 filled backpacks** in Newark to families identified through the CityServe Compassion Network. Backpack contents include backpacks for all grade levels, highlighters, pens, crayons, binders, paper, scissors, calculators, and pencil cases as well as Target gift cards for the purchase of additional school supplies.

Thanks to your donations and the hard work of CTK Social Ministry, a total of approximately **\$3,200** in backpacks and school supplies have been donated this year.

This has been especially challenging this year of coronavirus since TriCity Volunteers no longer has the resources to help us with distribution of our purchased school supplies and the late decision for virtual learning.

A special thanks to Melinda Kufeld in identifying the needs of the Tri-city school districts and pursuing a means of distribution.

Because of the demand and the anticipated needs, we are continuing to accept financial donations for the “Backpack” Project as needs are identified throughout the year.

Donations to the “Backpack” project can be made directly to CTK – send checks to 1301 Mowry Ave. Fremont, CA

94538. We hope to have an online donation option available soon.



VIRTUAL TUTORING: BOOST

Compassion Network has developed a virtual tutoring program for students in grades 1 through 5. The program will be one hour per week for 8 weeks starting September 28th and ending the week of November 15th. The schedule is flexible within a window of Monday thru Friday from 3-6:00 pm as arranged by the volunteer. Training will be provided on September 21st. To sign up, please use the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9q_-3UQrcZWe96Pe9jIjGoK8GH81ZWH7lf3Du_DNGfpm4Z9Q/viewform...

DID YOU KNOW? ...

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to explore our new website, I would like to share the background of a key part of our service both in person and especially in these days of zoom: our very talented Music Director **Barney Tiller**. Prior to Covid 19, Barney has been the CTK choir director (a very patient man) as well as providing us with the wonders of the organ, his first musical love and how he and CTK became acquainted; both are anxiously awaiting his return.



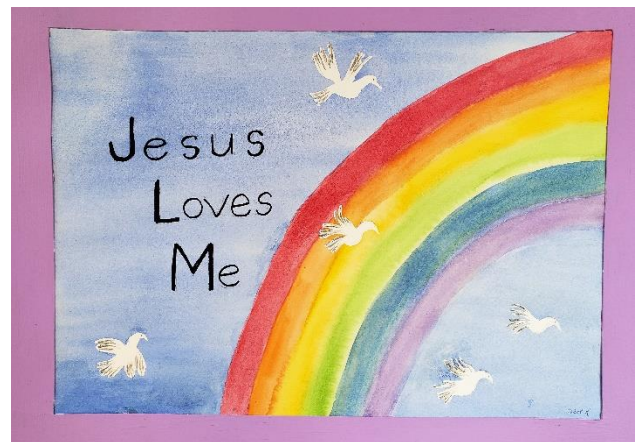
My 60-year career in church music has taken me from Texas to Pennsylvania, from Southern California and finally up to Northern California, wherein I've been organist, choir director, or organist/choirmaster for many churches, including Disciples of Christ, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, and Lutheran, and that's leaving off my stint playing for a Jewish temple. My experience actually started at 17, when the chaplain at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska—where my dad was stationed—asked me to assist him playing on his portable organ as he drove between barracks at Fort Richardson on Sunday mornings. It's a long, windy road betwixt there and here, but I am who I am in many ways because of my work for the Church. Although I formally "retired" in 2016, I'm grateful that circumstances have led me back to making music at Christ the King church. - **Barney Tiller**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

During the four months with this Coronavirus, we've created and distributed an outstanding collection of over 2,350 cotton face masks!!! Thank you, Sewing Bees!!

BETHESDA DEVOTIONS

Every Friday some of us meet with our members and friends at Bethesda via Zoom (feel free to join anytime). We share our stories, sing, dance and pray together. We talk about God and learn from the Bible. Our young tradition is to always end with the same beautiful song: "Jesus loves me". The video we sing along to features a rainbow. So, Carol Lowe had the great idea to create a painting for the Bethesda residents. Here it is. Isn't it heart-warming and beautiful? Thank you, Carol, for dedicating your time and talents to making us all a little happier!



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

UPCOMING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDY: Thursday, September 10th, 10:00 – 10:45 am. An abbreviated Bible Study will be held via Zoom every Thursday through mid-November. During that time, we will focus on personal prayers for those in our lives and each other. We will also have time for a short discussion of a selected scripture reading or focus on a particular book of the bible. ALL are welcome!

BOOK CLUB: Thursday, September 3rd, 10:00 – 11:30 am. Join us via Zoom for the last session studying Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S., by ELCA Pastor Lenny Duncan, the third book in our series. CTK Book Club will be on hiatus for 8 weeks as of September 11, 2020. This break will allow time for those interested to be able to participate in the **Racial Justice Activation Circle**.

If you have any questions about the **CTK Book Club & Bible Study** 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.

CTK COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, September 8th 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 starting in September.

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, September 9th, at 1:00 pm via Zoom. BYOLB! (Bring your own lunch and beverage!)

SOCIAL HOUR: Bring your own beverage of choice, sign in to Zoom and join us for a relaxing social hour in your own home on **Wednesdays (9/2, 9/16, 9/23 and 9/30) at 7:00 pm.** All are welcome!

SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING: Monday, September 7th, at 6:00 pm via Zoom. (tentative – check website calendar for changes)

ZOOM WORSHIP: Total attendance continues to be strong: 39, 41, 44, 41, and 48 attendees for the respective Sundays in August. 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, Ruth Carpizo, Judy Castro, Randy and Sheila Cooper, **Dan Dungy** (friend of Kris Adams), Roger Fajman, **Hank & Sylvia Hanson** (friends of the Allen's who lost their home and business), **Jeanette, Al & Madeline Ip** (friends of Bonnie Immeker recovering from Covid 19 virus), Nikki Jackson, Renee Johnson, Fred Kemp, Don D. Ketcham III, Christi Loveland, America Manspeaker, Laura McCorkle, Jacob Montoya,

Gail Queenan (recovering from a broken wrist), **Terry Queenan** (recovering from carpal tunnel surgery), Clare Nielsen, **Betsy Rothley & family** (friends of Jim Sepeda recovering from a car accident resulting in the death of one daughter) and Doug Sepeda.

It is with great sadness we are reporting the peaceful passing of **Bob Walter Sr.** on August 24th at his home at Carlton Senior Living with his family in attendance. Bob had been suffering these past several weeks and hospice care was started on August 21st. Services are pending.

Celebration of Life for Marilyn Shaner tentatively scheduled for June of 2021.

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

September Birthdays

9/01	America Manspeaker	9/08	Karla Cooper	9/25	Pastor Tia Pelz
9/02	Steve Adams	9/16	Joe Tuleen	9/26	Debbie Pollak
		9/18	Christine O Halloran		

September Anniversaries

9/07	Dave & Bunny Dubel (56)	9/10	Sharon & Bill Kemp (42)
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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*