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## TABLE TALK



### PASTOR'S LETTER

A couple of months ago the kids and I went to Fairyland in Oakland for the first time in 17 months. Another first in a long list of firsts in these past weeks upon the reopening of California. We all had cherished memories of this little dreamland at Lake Merritt that served as an inspiration for Disneyland! It's this perfect mix of play structures, animals to look at, stories that one can unlock with a magical key, carousels, trains and puppet shows. In short: It is everything a child could possibly wish for. Just a pool might be missing.

Our expectations and anticipation were accordingly. As soon as we entered the park, the kids ran off. They still remembered everything. I followed Theo to the merry go around, no waiting in line, he could pick among half of the horses (the others were blocked), life was restored!



Until Toni came and also wanted to ride along. And the lady told her that she was too tall. Just by

hardly an inch. Yet, she couldn't get on. Toni was devastated. She cried and cried, wished to be smaller again. To her the day was ruined.

At the end of our 3-hour visit I solemnly declared that this was our last visit and that they had graduated from Fairyland now. They weren't happy to hear that. Even though they had been a little bored, to be honest.

This visit had shown them more than just the simple fact of having grown in the past 1.5 years. It also reminded us of what we have missed out on. In Toni's case: Going to Fairyland while she was still small enough. It reminded us that there is no simple going back to how it used to be. Because we are not who we used to be anymore. A place we used to love might not be anymore what we remembered it to be. Or maybe it is to some, but not to others.

While the change is easy to see in kids, all of us adults have been changed, too. It might not be as visible to the world, as easy to measure. It will have to do with acknowledging that we have grown. As a church. Some things might not fit us anymore. (Also, some clothes.) We might be sad about it. We might mourn without knowing exactly what it is we are missing.

The hard work of "reopening" has just begun. And it's not just about opening doors and welcoming people into our physical spaces. It's about seeing ourselves as the new people we are.

The people that have worshipped faithfully from our homes and cars and vacation rentals. The people that made do with Zoom and built new relationships. The people who stayed inside for months upon months to be safe. The people that took whatever was at hand for communion. The people feeling God's presence amidst a pandemic. The people knowing that a church is so much more than a building. The people meeting new people of God on Zoom, listening to different pastors preach, reading different devotions. All of us, blessed people, God's people, sitting and

walking through a wilderness longer than anyone could have imagined.



And now? Now, we discover that cocooning doesn't leave us unchanged. That our life isn't a merry go around. That we are resurrection people. And that resurrection is more than reopening. It's about new life, new connections, revisioning what it means to live as Christians in our communities. We better be ready for God's amazing work of renewal and resurrection. God is about to do a new thing. ***Pastor Tia!***

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## Council President's Corner

Many folks refer to August as "the Dog Days of Summer." In ancient Greece and Rome, the Dog Days were believed to be a time of drought, bad luck, and unrest, when dogs and men alike would be driven mad by the extreme heat. Today, the phrase doesn't conjure up such bad imagery (thank you to whoever invented air conditioning). Instead, the Dog Days are associated purely with the time of summer's peak temperatures and humidity. Still folks are more likely to get out of town to the mountains, or just sit back with an iced tea or lemonade in hand and relax.

That is not the case for the Saints of CTK. Our Sewing Bees continued to turn out masks for those who need them most, our Social Ministry team put together two batches of back packs for children returning to school filled with supplies (and masks), our Social Justice Committee continues to work on two initiatives (Safe Parking and the Jesus for Justice Collective), and we began work with the Synod and our sister ELCA churches on the Acts for Vitality Program. And let's not forget all the work by many to continue to offer our Zoom Services with and without Pastor Tia.

The Saints of CTK may be small in number, but we are mighty! I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the months to come. Thank you for all your efforts and support.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Sepeda  
Council President

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## Pastor's Vacation in Stories and Pictures

For 5 weeks, our family traveled the Midwest and South of the US. Too much to share in a few sentences and too much to even remember. That's why I started writing about our journey. In mid-September I will begin sending out Facebook posts and emails for about 2 weeks with stories and impressions from our time. If you would like to read those, let pastor Tia know and she will add you to the list. – *Pastor Tia*



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## Welcome back, Tori!

Soon, a new semester will start for Tori Volcarcel, our ministry-in-context student we “share” with Holy Trinity. Tori just moved to Berkeley from Maryland after a long drive across the country and is acclimating herself in the Bay Area (sorry for the bad air quality – it will get better)! Tori, we missed you and are sure glad, you are back!



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## *Jesus and Justice Collective in the Tri-City*

To work together as Christians towards Racial Reconciliation, that's the dream of the Jesus and Justice Collective. We are clergy and lay-leaders from different churches, backgrounds and theologies, united in the goal to work towards equity. After the first couple of meetings as the organizing team, I can already tell you: It will be challenging and amazing. We will find common ground where we might not expect it and see some gaps to bridge where we thought we all agreed. We will learn about ourselves and others, build relationships and work toward healing in our community.

No matter whether you just started your journey on the path to debunk history and to help shape a better future for this country or whether you are a veteran who already knows a ton: There will be ways to connect, learn and share for you.



If this has piqued your interest at all, **please consider filling out this survey** <https://forms.gle/unNYK5CorhwQX3gdA> until **Sept 5<sup>th</sup>**. At the end of the survey, you will also find the

link to our first documentary, called “**Unchained,**” a movie about the journey of some Black and White clergy trying to deal with their own trauma and how their faith in Jesus Christ helped them heal.

**On September 12<sup>th</sup> we will meet for the first time in-person** for lunch at Bridges Community Church | 505 Driscoll Road, Fremont, CA 94539 from **1-3 pm**. Bring your mask and your curiosity! Lunch will be provided.

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## *Safe Parking Program in Fremont*

The joined initiative between the City of Fremont and faith leaders is starting to take on some shape. The main idea is that faith organizations will offer their parking lots for a month to pre-screened neighbors living out of their cars. Most of the legal work has been done and the city is working on getting the last documents in place before launching the program as soon as faith organizations step up to host.

If you would like to read through the documents together and gather thoughts and remaining questions, consider joining us for the Social Justice Committee on September 1 at 10 am. If you would like to take a look at the package submitted by the city, just email pastor Tia for your copy. We will invite city officials to join us for a Q&A in late September or early October, so, stay tuned! – *Pastor Tia*

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## *Tri-City Kids’ Theater Project Postponed - not Canceled*



Some of you might have admired the beautiful banners announcing the upcoming Kid’s Theater this fall. Unfortunately, we had to postpone this grant endeavor due to the spread of Covid and parents’ understandable hesitancy to sign-up their kids for yet another in-person activity. But, we look forward to starting the program as soon as parents are comfortable. If you know families who might be interested, please reach out to Dana at the office or Pastor Tia.

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## *A New Look at Stewardship*

Your Stewardship Committee is in the process of planning the upcoming Stewardship season. We are considering pledge cards beyond the typical financial commitment, temple talks, and the possibility of an outdoor event.

We are looking ahead to being able to worship and meet in person and discussed discovering and sharing truths needed to allow congregants to feel comfortable doing so and how we better use spaces throughout the church and Carlsen Hall.

Additionally, we’re in the process of discussing how the Stewardship Committee relates to the Acts of Vitality Team.

*Your Stewardship Committee*

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



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## “Habemas Papam”

Since July 1<sup>st</sup>, **Rev. Dr. Meghan Rohrer** is the new Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod ELCA. On **September 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm**, they will be installed as such with a festive worship service at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. If you would like to attend in-person, please RSVP via:

<http://www.spsbishopinstallation.com/>

You may also watch the livestream on that same website. - *Pastor Tia*

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## OTHER UPCOMING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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.

**BOOK CLUB:** **Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** via Zoom. We will be discussing, “**The United States of Grace, A Memoir of Homelessness, Addiction, Incarceration, and Hope,**” by **Lenny Duncan**. The Study Guide for the book can be downloaded from the following link:

[https://ms.broadleafbooks.com/downloads/USofG-Discussion-Guide\\_Final.pdf](https://ms.broadleafbooks.com/downloads/USofG-Discussion-Guide_Final.pdf)

Please e-mail Debbie Pollak at [bartpollak@gmail.com](mailto:bartpollak@gmail.com) for any questions or if you would like to be added to the email distribution.

**CTK COUNCIL MEETING:** **Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm** via Zoom.

**JESUS & JUSTICE COLLECTIVE:** **Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:00 pm**, in-person lunch at Bridges Community Church, 505 Driscoll Road, Fremont (lunch to be provided).

**LUNCH BUNCH:** **Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm** at the **Veg n Chaat Cuisine** located at **5168 Mowry Ave, Fremont**. Please see menu at: <https://vegnchaatcuisine.com/>

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. Please RSVP to Roseanne Lawrence.

**SEWING BEES COMMUNITY OUTREACH MASK PROJECT:** Hoping to bring the Mask Making project to a close on September 1st is not to bee. With Covid numbers increasing, school starting, and local hospital numbers climbing again, requests for masks are ongoing for a while longer. Abode Services has a large need at the present. Yes, machines are buzzing as we near the **8,400** mark. Whoever thought??? With God’s love ever present, we prevail. Thank you to all of the support team. We thank all of CTK supporters and the Sewing Bee volunteers. We're buzzing! - *Linda Pearson*

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

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING: Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, at 10:00 am** via Zoom. Agenda is update on Safe Parking Program and Jesus & Justice Collective. If you have questions, please contact Bunny Dubel.

**SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm** via Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Immecker.

**TRI-CITY VOLUNTEERS FOOD BANK: Tuesday – Friday, 9:00–3:00 pm**, drop-off times @ 37350 Joseph Street, Fremont, for urgently needed items:

- Bottled Water (16.9 oz. or Smaller)
- Individually Wrapped Beef Sticks/Jerky
- brown paper grocery bags used for food distribution

No canned goods are needed at this time. Financial donations always welcome! For more information: <http://tri-cityvolunteers.org>

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR AUGUST:** Total attendance for the respective Sundays in August were: **28, 38, 35 and 36** attendees (no CTK service on 8/1).

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR 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.

**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](mailto:cmbauer97@gmail.com)

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## Sanctuary & Office Repairs

Much of the finish work has been completed and we are getting very close to scheduling final inspection for our certificate of occupancy. In addition to punch list items (mostly minor – should only take a couple of days to complete with the exception of the janitorial sink which has to be ordered), we are still waiting on the cabinetry completion and installation – date still to be determined. The contents of the containers of the salvaged items have been sorted to the appropriate rooms – many boxes will need to be unpacked, for the offices once we have the certificate of occupancy. Meetings have been held with AT&T to sort out the process of switching phone service over. Gas and electricity are back on for the sanctuary. Barney and Dana will be working on getting the piano and organ cleaned and tuned with the appropriate professionals. The sanctuary has been put back together and discussions are underway regarding how to bring in person services back in the sanctuary with social distancing. Major cleaning has been done by the contractor including wiping down and hepa-filter vacuuming the chairs. But, now is the perfect time for us to continue to debulk and finetune that cleaning.

**HELP WANTED!** Volunteers will be needed for the finetuned cleaning (door hardware, windows, wiping down and placing worship books under the chairs, etc.) as well as unpacking boxes and miscellaneous chores. Please contact me and I will add your name to a list to help achieve our fresh start.

I will keep you posted – stay tuned... if you have questions, please contact me. - *Peggy Claassen*





## *Baptism*

On August 21, Pastor Tia baptized Axel Gutierrez. Axel was born on the 19th of May. He was 7lbs 8oz and 21 in long. He resides in Brentwood with his mother, Katherine and dad, Gabriel. Proud grandparents Debbie and Doug Ward along with family and friends celebrated the occasion at CTK on the patio outside of the sanctuary and Carlson Hall. Congratulations to all!

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

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## SEPTEMBER: ANNIVERSARIES

09/07 Dave & Bunny Dubel (57)

09/10 Bill & Sharon Kemp (43)



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## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

09/02 Steve Adams                      09/18 Christina O'Halloran  
09/08 Karla Cooper                    09/22 Marilyn Moore  
09/16 Joe Tuleen                        09/25 Pastor Tia Pelz  
09/18 Aaron Meyer                    09/26 Debbie Pollak



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## 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](mailto:pelztia@gmail.com)

Barney Tiller, *Music Director*  
Dana Brambley, *Church Secretary/Office Administrator*  
Christina Bauer, *Webmaster/Designer*

## CTK OFFICE HOURS:

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

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