



Together We Are The Church

November 2020

Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

November 2020

Aloha Kakou,

For the Pastor's Page, I'd like to put to you some FAQs that I put to the Church Council a couple of weeks ago, the first, overall FAQ being: "How are we doing?"

These have been challenging times, to say the least, and there have been few if any roadmaps to guide us along the way. For many of us, it has been stressful and anxiety-producing. We are now "doing church" in ways that a mere eight months ago were definitely not on my radar screen.

To relax in the midst of this uncontrolled pandemic, shattered economy and political polarization, I've been reading a book called Radical Uncertainty. Okay, just kidding ... that's not how I relax. But I have been reading the book.

In it the authors ask my first question in a couple of ways:

What is essential?
What matters most?

I might also add a few that I've put to CLC over the past few years:

What's been your role in this narrative we call Christ Lutheran Church?
How's it working out for you?

As we face these "radically uncertain" times, I'd like us to take just a few minutes and think about those FAQs. My late mentor, when he consulted with congregations, would ask two questions:

What's one thing here you would like to see happen?
What's one thing here you would like to see stop?

These questions are all somewhat similar, but perhaps one or two of them will stimulate you to reflect on how CLC is doing. So, as we hurtle into the last two months of this Year of Our Lord 2020, if any of these FAQs get you to thinking about what CLC might try next, what our next steps together might be, then, great! Let me know!

Looking forward to seeing you "in Church"!

Blessings,

Pr Keith





*You are welcome at the table
found at Christ Lutheran Church.*

*Welcome to those of you who come bearing diverse gifts
including wisdom regarding sexual orientations,
gender identities and gender expressions.*

*Welcome to all of you
for your diverse colors, shapes, cultures, backgrounds, and traditions.*

*Welcome to those of you born here
and to those of you flown here.*

*We seek to rejoice, grieve, heal and
reconcile together as we gather
around Jesus' table,
which has been laid out for all.*



Celebrations - Blessings to All of You

Happy Birthday

03 Whitney DePowell
09 Amanda Spangler
23 Johanna Jans
24 Chieko Higuchi
27 Nick Jans
30 Logan Riehle

If we missed your special day,
please let the office know
(office@clcmililani.org)



Baptismal Anniversaries

07 Ele Clere
19 Landon Acosta
25 Rick Myers

Wedding Anniversaries

07 Jiao Chen & ZhiQiang Zhou



Highlights from the October 11 Church Council meeting

- ◆ Discussed overall how we are doing. The sense was that we're holding up okay, given the challenges we're facing;
- ◆ Reviewed 40th Anniversary. It seemed to go rather smoothly, even the alternating between Zoom and in-person;
- ◆ By-Laws got put on hold by the pandemic. Linda and Bud are reviewing them;
- ◆ Community Garden Project: Bud and Steve worked out the amount and costs of water needed. May raise the cost of our water bill only by about \$75, give or take a few. Much lower than we had feared;
- ◆ The Habilitat Christmas Tree Sale will take place in early December in the grassy area of our church campus;
- ◆ Reviewed worship schedule for the rest of the year:
 - a) Considering a Thanksgiving Day worship service
 - b) Christmas Eve – one service, time TBD
 - c) Christmas Day – one service, time TBD
- ◆ Voted to receive Brin Dahl-Zerkle through Affirmation of Baptism

Next Council meeting: November 15 @ 2:30pm.



The Anniversary Continues

CLC The Early Days

As a continuation of the celebration of CLC's 40th anniversary, Pastor Keith gathered 4 long-time members (including some of the founding members) to talk story about the joys and challenges from the early days of CLC. Bud Jenkins, Sally Kino, Eileen Ward, and Linda Santos spent an hour with Pastor Keith remembering where we came from, who we are, and where we might be going. The video of their chat can be viewed on the CLC YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-c4Y2QRWHQ>. It's really a fascinating hour and well worth your time to watch.



November Semi-Annual Meeting
Sunday, Nov 22
Following the 11 am service

Thanksgiving and Christmas
Worship Services
November 26
December 24
December 25

See next page for more details.

The CLC Semi-Annual Meeting

is scheduled for Sunday, November 22, immediately following the 11:00am worship service. For those of you worshipping via Zoom, “Please remain on the line.” We may have enough people “in-person” to constitute a quorum which is 15 (20% of our 75 voting members), but we want to also Zoom the meeting so that those of you not yet feeling up to being here “in the flesh” can also participate.

The two major issues to address are:

- Presentation of the 2021 budget
- Election of Church Council members, including officers

Because of the uncertainty of the pandemic and the ensuing economic and social difficulties that have dominated 2020, Pr Keith and President Linda Santos are recommending that we retain the current Church Council in toto. Those whose terms are expiring at the end of 2020 will stay on council until the end of 2021 when their extended term will expire.

The thought here is that this Council has together navigated the pandemic well and, given the further uncertainty in 2021, retaining their collective moral judgment and practical wisdom might be a wise move on the part of the congregation.

Additionally, if anyone else would like to join the Council and stand for election, please let Pres Santos or Pr Keith know so that the Council can put your name forward.

Regarding the 2021 budget – the suggestion is that we keep it the same as 2020, with only minor tweaks for any line items where the budget versus actual is grossly variant.

Next year could be as challenging as this year in ways we have yet to discern. These suggestions are intended to help us conserve our congregational resources and put them to the best use possible in our ministry to and for our neighbors, both within the congregation and without, to those near and far.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Worship

We are tentatively planning on offering several worship services in November and December.

For Thanksgiving Day, we will be offering a daytime Service of the Word worship service (no communion), time to be determined, but probably late morning, at 10 or 11 am. Since many of us will not be congregating with our families this year (and we probably shouldn't!), we thought it might soften the blow of being familiarly dis-congregated by re-congregating as the CLC congregation. Dinner will not be served but prayer, praise, and thanksgiving to God for all that we have been given will be offered up. The service will be in-person as well as Zoomed.

For Christmas we will offer one candlelight service on Christmas Eve, time TBD. This will be a service of candle-lighting and carol-singing (and in-person humming!) Additionally, we will offer a Christmas Day service of Holy Communion for those who are unable or reluctant to join us on Christmas Eve. More carol-humming and time to be together when we cannot be with family.

Stay tuned for more details as the weeks unfold and fly by!

NOVEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day 8 am In-person Worship 11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation	2	3	4 7 pm Kokua Hui via Zoom	5	6	7
8 8 am In-person Worship 11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation	9	10	11 Veteran's Day 7 pm Kokua Hui via Zoom	12	13	14 Bishop's Gathering 9 am via Zoom
15 8 am In-person Worship 11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation 2:30 pm Council Meeting on Zoom	16	17	18 7 pm Kokua Hui via Zoom	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 8 am In-person Worship 11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation 12 pm Nov. Annual Meeting Via Zoom	23	24	25 7 pm Kokua Hui via Zoom	26 Thanks-giving Day Worship Service Time TBD	27	28
29 1st Sunday in Advent 8 am In-person Worship 11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation	30					

Habilitat's Christmas Tree Project

From Habilitat: We are proud to provide Hawaii with the freshest Christmas Trees available for over 40 years. Kept in refrigerated containers, our trees are handled with the utmost care. When you purchase your tree through Habilitat all of the proceeds go directly to the program. Habilitat has altered the lives of thousands of people for the past forty years and with your help we can continue for another forty.

For many years Habilitat has been partnering with local schools, groups and teams to help make our community a better place.

You can find Habilitat's Christmas Trees in hotels, businesses, offices, and homes on the Island.



CLC's Fundraiser

Here's a look at what you can purchase from Habilitat - live trees (Douglas, Grand, Noble & Nordmann firs), wreaths, and door charms. You can place your order on-line at hawaiichristmastrees.com. Click on the item(s) you want to purchase, choose Christ Lutheran as the pick up location, and select Christ Lutheran as the "Group Name." We will receive a portion of the cost for every tree purchased and designated for CLC (provided we sell at least 5 trees). So encourage your friends and family members to purchase their trees from Habilitat and help CLC at the same time. Order on line and pick up at Christ Lutheran - what could be easier?



Pick up will be on Saturday, December 5 from 7 am to 4:30 pm.



Other organizations are already selling so get your order in as soon as possible. Don't forget, it's hawaiichristmastrees.com. Do not try to order from the Habilitat website.

Mahalo Nui Loa

To... Dale and Thomas Koenig for "stepping up to the plate" (pun intended) and agreeing to serve as tellers (those who help to count the offerings). We are pleased to have you aboard. Our Teller coordinator, Mary Lou Kimoto, said you are already doing a great job. (She also said to remember $2+4+7=11!$ I think it's an inside joke so you'll have to check with one of them to find out the meaning.)

Got Food?



Our annual canned food drive takes place here at CLC during the month of November to support needy families of **Central & North Shore Oahu through The Private Sector Hawaii**, an all-volunteer non-profit organization that provides food, shelter, and other goods and services to the needy. During the holiday season, every food box contains a turkey/ham and trimmings to provide a feast for hungry people. As we

approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, they are finding that there is an ever-increasing demand for what they have to offer, and they can use more help than usual in filling requests for assistance. The PSH is a 501(c)3 charity, and all donations are tax-deductible. Because they are an all-volunteer organization with minimal operating expenses, all monies and goods donated go directly to those people who can use them the most. *You can help by donating nonperishable food items to the church throughout the month. You may drop them off in the office or the sanctuary.* Your gifts and their intended recipients will receive a blessing at the altar, as the staff of The Private Sector will be with us on **Sunday, November 29** to pick up the donations. Mahalo for your support!

VOTE!

If you haven't yet voted, hie thee to a voter service center!

Let's Do Church Together!



That's the theme of this year's Pacifica Bishop's Gatherings (formerly known as Hukilau Assembly). The date for the Hawaii gathering is Saturday, November 14, at 9 am via Zoom. Two CLC delegates and Pastor Keith are already registered but everyone is invited to attend. To register or for more information go to the Pacifica Synod website at www.pacificasynod.org.



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November Worship

In-person worship with Communion continues at **8 am** and **11 am**. In addition, the 11 am service is offered on Zoom and Facebook with on-line Communion. You may also later view and hear the worship service at CLCMililani on our YouTube channel and SoundCloud. Nov 1 is All Saints Day and the Nov annual meeting will be held following the 11 am service on Nov 22.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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