



Together We Are The Church

October 2020

Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

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Aloha Kakou,

This novel coronavirus pandemic has laid bare for all the world to see how fragile and hollow America has become. Now, as of this writing, with over two hundred thousand dead from Covid19 we have gone in our world from being envied, loved, and hated to pitied more than anything. One sympathetic and worried Canadian who lives not far from the US border was quoted in the papers saying that it's like watching the fall of the Roman Empire, only in fast-motion.

Certainly, the coronavirus is exposing the unfairness of our land – health inequities, wealth disparity, entrenched patterns of racial violence and discrimination, and voter suppression, to name just one of many assaults on our democratic institutions. All complexly interwoven and impossible to disentangle one from the other. It's chilling to watch this unfold and frightening to ponder our changed world.

And in this, to wonder where God has gotten to. Why is God being so unfair? Is God punishing us? Judging us?

In the First Reading for this coming Sunday (by the time you read this, the Sunday past - 27 September) God is sarcastically mocking the Israelites who are complaining that God is unfair. "The way of the Lord is unfair!" you say? "Is it not your ways that are unfair?" says the Lord (Ezekiel 18:25ff)

Perhaps instead of asking where God is in all of this tragedy, we might ask ourselves how we have brought this upon ourselves, especially here in proud and haughty America, where five percent of the world's population comes in first place on the planet with deaths at over twenty percent of the global mortality. At least we're still number one in something. Tragically, this

time. And no, I'm not being ironic – I'm appalled and embarrassed.

Perhaps we need to ponder humbly and quietly how we have brought this upon ourselves. Instead of ranting about how we have the right to refuse to wear masks and physically distance, we ought to ask how best to love our neighbors, especially those most disadvantaged and most in need. As the God of the Bible calls us to love.

Our First Reading concludes with God crying out to Israel to repent: "Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live." (Ezekiel 18:31-32)

I invite you this month, even as we celebrate forty years as the congregation called Christ Lutheran Church, as part of our celebration in the midst of sin, death, and evil, to turn ... to turn from our selfish ways ... to turn toward God, toward our neighbors in need ... and to live.

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

Happy Birthday

05 Pam Lantias
18 Dick Crislip
21 Rick Myers
23 Linda Santos
26 Adam Burke
28 Alice Culpepper

Happy Belated Birthday

Sept 14 Otto Vonberg
Sept 19 Leif Vonberg
Sorry we missed these last month



Baptismal Anniversaries

13 Dale Burke
27 Chieko Higuchi
28 John Clere

Wedding Anniversaries

7 Mary Lou & Vern Kiimoto
22 Dale & Barbara Burke
27 David & Andy Sikkink

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



Highlights from the September 13 Church Council meeting

Community Garden

- * MSP – to proceed with plans and fund-raising for a community garden to be built and maintained in the open land between the parsonage and the parking lot.
- * Insurance, DPP, and cell tower have no problems with the plans as presented
- * Security, water, and ongoing management to be addressed in an ongoing fashion, with help from a considerable group of “professional” community gardeners on Oahu.
- * Food will be grown for those suffering from food insecurity due to the pandemic, economy, and remoteness of Hawaii from unsustainable food resources.

Fortieth Anniversary Celebration

- * Begins September 20th, with former pastors, Burke, Roessler, and Kieffer, along with Bishop Andy Taylor, in attendance, via Zoom or in-person
- * More to follow, including long-time members’ reflections and newcomers’ hopes and dreams

Habilitat Christmas Tree sale

- * Approved for December 4 & 5, Friday and Saturday, in the church open space.
- * CLC to receive a percentage of sales sold through the congregation to members and others

Blessings of the Animals

- * October 4, both services
- * In-person and online

Reformation Sunday is October 25th – wear red!

All Saints Sunday is November 1st – wear white!

- * Please send names of loved ones to be remembered to Pr Keith or the Carolyn at the church office

Next Council meeting: October 11 @ 2:30pm.



These are two of the photos taken at the 40th anniversary service by Jana Norton. See additional photos on page 7.



Special Sundays Coming

October 4 - Blessing of the Animals at both services and on-line.

October 25 - The Celebration of the Reformation (wear red)

November 1 - All Saints Sunday (wear white)

Please send the names of those who have passed away that you wish to remember by email or snail mail to Pastor Keith or Carolyn in the office no later than October 23.

For our 40th anniversary we received congratulatory letters from State Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Senator Mazie Hirono, and Bishop Any Taylor (this one is printed on page 6). We also received a framed certificate from the State House of Representatives. All of these will be viewable on our website soon or you can request that the office email copies to you. Pastor Keith has additional follow ups planned.



As citizens of a free country, voting is a privilege and a duty. Voter registration deadline is October 5. Ballots will be mailed between October 5th and 9th (depending on what island you live on). If you don't receive your ballot by October 16, contact the county elections division. Your ballot needs to be returned (not postmarked by) to the election office by November 3. We highly suggest that you **mail your ballot back as soon as possible after you receive it** to avoid potential mail delays. If you have questions or need additional information, go to <https://elections.hawaii.gov/>.



OCTOBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 IHS Outreach
4 Blessing of the Animals <i>8 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</i>	5	6	7 7 pm Kokua Hui via Zoom	8	9	10
11 <i>8 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</i> 2:30 pm Council Meeting on Zoom	12 Discoverers Day Holiday	13	14 7 pm Kokua Hui via Zoom	15	16	17
18 <i>8 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</i>	19	20	21 7 pm Kokua Hui via Zoom	22	23 Newsletter Deadline Deadline for All Saints names to office	24
25 Reformation Sunday <i>8 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</i>	26	27	28 7 pm Kokua Hui via Zoom	29	30	31
Nov 1 All Saints Sunday <i>8 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</i>						



Pacifica Synod - ELCA

Office of the Bishop - Lutheran Center For Mission & Learning

September 20, 2020

Christ Lutheran Church
95-1361 Meheula Pkwy
Mililani, HI 96789

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Lutheran Church,

Congratulations and God's richest blessings as you celebrate 40 years of proclaiming the gospel in Mililani. Through the work you have done, God's love has been shared with individuals, families, and communities, and has made a difference in the lives of countless numbers of people.

Over the past 40 years you have rejoiced in the good news of God's presence and love; shared the Lord's Supper; baptized adults, children, and infants; fed the hungry; visited the sick; prayed for all in need; gathered for worship; shared your witness to Jesus, crucified and risen for the sake of the world; and gone out into the community to serve your neighbors. You have welcomed children, teenagers, young adults, the middle aged, and seniors, and utilized their God-given gifts to share God's care with each other and with your neighbors. You have proclaimed the good news that God gives salvation freely by grace through faith, and been a strong Lutheran voice in proclaiming God's engagement with the world.

On behalf of a grateful Synod, thank you for being the ELCA in Mililani, and for spreading Christ's message of hope and grace. May God bless you and continue to work through you, guiding your future so that you may continue to witness to Christ's love.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Dr. Andrew A. Taylor
Bishop



More photos from Jana Norton taken at the ann'y service



Why Are We Talking About Christmas Already?

Because Christ Lutheran is participating in the Habilitat Christmas Tree sale fundraiser this year. In addition, we will be the tree pick-up site because Mililani High

School, which has had their own sale in the past, is not doing it this year. All ordering can be done on line. You simply choose Christ Lutheran from the options. And Christ Lutheran will receive a portion of the cost of all trees (provided we sell at least 5 trees). So encourage your friends and family members to purchase their trees from Habilitat. More details will be included in the November newsletter.



***Left:** Collette Wiedemann's new granddaughter, Collette Lilinoe "Lily" (age 3 months) with big brother, Robson Jay Kuaiwa "Sonny" (age 2); **Above:** Ritter Daniel Zaffke, born Sept 18, 2020 at 9:37 am (7 lbs. 10 oz; 20.5" long). Congratulations!*



Christ Lutheran Church
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Mililani, HI 96789



October 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. Blessing of the Animals is Oct 4, and Reformation will be celebrated on Oct. 25.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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