

## Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

Aloha Kakou,

Summer time is a good time for me to reflect on how we are, what we are doing and consequently, who we are as a community of faith. Some few conversations – and interestingly only a few! – about Sunday School and Catechism (aka, Confirmation) have been the subject of my introspective noodling of late.

What to do about these traditional programs that seem to have fallen on hard times, not just at CLC but all over the country. Lutheran churches in North America used to rely on Lutheran families having Lutheran babies who would grow up to be Lutheran church members. That pattern ended about a generation and a half ago. But the thinking, discourse and expectation of Lutheran churches did not – we still seem to think, expect and talk as if the next generation will be back in “church” any day, week, or month now.

But they haven’t come back, have they? This may be the biggest reason (in my humble opinion) why Lutheran churches in North America (and Hawaii!) are in numerical decline. Sunday School and Catechism as traditional routines of education and retention in the faith, as well as of church growth, are no longer working. We have schooled, catechized and confirmed hundreds if not thousands of children and young people, only to see them walk out the door and not return. These results have been over the last four decades most disappointing.

Additionally, the dynamics of family life has changed dramatically. Stay-at-home-moms, once the steady supply source for Sunday School teachers, no longer stay at home. They work; they have to. Children and youth who had plenty of free time, no longer do. Life is much busier for everyone. So, where in this busy life do adult volunteers, participating children and youth find time for all things “church”?

I wish I knew.

What I do note is that only one person volunteered last year for Sunday School teaching. We met, came up with some creative ideas, but needed a few more people to help. We couldn’t find any. No one stepped forward.

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

*Pastor's article continued from pg. 1*

So, nothing happened. And this one volunteer is no longer attending CLC.

This could be construed as “blame and shame”, hoping something might happen this year. But Sunday School by guilt is counterproductive at best.

What I am interested in is honesty. Which may be more about admitting that the old ways aren't doing what they were intended to do – raise and retain our children in the faith of their forebears. And blaming each other won't help us find our way about in this complex and perplexing situation.

There are no recipes, formulas, tools or techniques, no guaranteed programs to fix this challenge, either. I think quick fixes and even thoughtfully planned strategies have fallen short.

So, what do we do? Good question. I'm stumped. If you have some thoughts or ideas, any comments or opinions, please let me know.

I don't want to abandon our children and youth. If we have something important to convey to them, something specifically about being “justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone,” – and I think we do – then, what is to be done?

Think about it. Talk amongst yourselves. Then, get back to me.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Keith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pr Keith

## Congratulations Graduate Class of 2017



### ***Virginia Johnson***

Virginia Johnson graduated from Maryville College in Maryville, TN on 22 May 2017 with a BS in psychology and minors in religion and philosophy. She will begin a one year position in California with Americorp in August. Congratulations Connie & Jerry Omo!



### ***Jiao Chen***

Jiao Chen graduated from Hawaii Pacific University with a masters degree in secondary education. Jiao will be teaching at Llima Middle School this fall. Congratulations Steve & Guirong Peterson!

## **BE A PART OF SUNDAY'S SERVICES**

The HUI sign up sheet for our 10:45 worship service is on the information table & posted on the bulletin board across from the water fountain. Due to vacations and moving, summer months are hard to fill. If you can help fill the void we'd appreciate it. A BIG MAHALO to all our regulars!

**There's a place for you! Check out these opportunities:  
See the sign up sheet on the information table and we'll contact you for training.**

**USHER**

**TELLER**

**READER**

**ACOLYTE**

**GREETER**

**ALTAR GUILD**

**SOUND SYSTEM**

**PRAYER STATION**

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT**

**SUNDAY MORNING SET-UP**

**AFTER SERVICES CLEAN-UP**



# Anniversaries

## *Happy Birthday*

05 Landon Acosta  
05 Brandie Porter  
05 Thor Porter  
06 Patrick Riehle  
07 Eileen Ward  
09 Anna Sikkink  
19 Eric Melin  
21 Anna Hamaguchi  
22 Sally Little  
25 Sam Hamaguchi  
28 Paul Herr  
29 Connie Omo  
29 Janet Riehle  
30 Kaleb Kino  
31 Ele Clere



## *Baptismal Anniversaries*

03 Anne Myers  
03 Hunter Spangler  
10 Meghan Forbes  
12 Bill Little  
26 Alana Yanagida  
26 Lisa Yanagida  
27 Gini Gustafson  
27 Eileen Ward

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

25 Bill & Karen Paulus

*Thank you for  
Praying*

*Please keep Ashley in your prayers  
as she is going through chemotherapy.*

*Prayers are requested for Nicholas & Johanna  
and all those coping with anxiety.*

*Please continue to pray for Roy & Caly.  
Blessings and safety for all returning boats like the Hokulea.*

*Peace and comfort for Kirk & family.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 7am Contemplative, Communion Service  9:30am PBJs  10:45am Communion Service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  Happy 4th of July!	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>  7am Contemplative, Communion, Healing Service  10:45am Communion & Healing Service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  7pm JOC/CLC Meeting @ CLC	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 7am Contemplative, Communion Service  9:30am PBJs  10:45am Communion Service	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 7am Contemplative, Communion Service  9:30am PBJs  10:45am Communion Worship Service	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Newsletter Deadline  4:30pm Coun- cil Meeting	<b>29</b>  10am OPOH
<b>30</b>  7am Contemplative, Communion Service  10:45am Communion Service	<b>31</b>					

# JULY

# 2017

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America

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**Tweet Me @Pr\_Keith**

## Sunday Worship

7:00 a.m.  
Contemplative Communion Service

9:30 a.m.  
PBJ's Puppet Team

10:45 a.m.  
Service of Holy Communion  
With Children's Message and  
Healing Prayers with Anointing  
Professional Keiki care  
Provided

Healing Service - 2nd Sundays

## TRAVELERS

Would you find it helpful to have your offering debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? Christ Lutheran offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. **If you have plans to travel this summer**, electronic giving gives you a convenient way to keep up with your intended offerings. Simply complete and return an electronic giving authorization form (found on the information table) or call the office to get started. Thank you for giving to CLC.

The Simply Giving® Program  
endorsed by  
 **THRIVENT**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION®



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