



Together We Are The Church

July, 2022

Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

June 2022

Aloha Kakou,

I'm writing this as I ponder the news from yesterday and today, the news that the US Supreme Court struck down state gun control laws but gave them the right to make decisions over women's health care. We knew the latter was coming and the former was likely. But still ... I found myself just sitting there, drinking my morning tea, not sure what I should do next. I wandered from room to room, looking at books, magazines, and pictures, but not really able to see them. I certainly didn't pick them up and read them. I couldn't focus.

I heard on the news that social media was exploding, so I took a deep breath and stayed away from that. I went outside to water the garden and as soon as I did, it started raining. Thanks, God. I went back inside, got ready to go to the church office, and did the Church Invite, a regular Friday morning task.

As I settled down, I heard myself saying, "Stick to the long game, Keith. Remember to take the long view." I took a deep breath, said my prayers, and relaxed a bit.

And I remembered my long game – complex responsive processes, intersectional theory and practice, and the Crucified God. How they all interact, how they help me make sense of all the weird things going on around me/us, how they help me get through the day and week, and how they help me form my hopes and dreams for tomorrow.

A couple of Sundays back I said that I had had it. Enough! I'm done with dancing the dance. Well, I've still had it. As of this writing, I have preached about being done with it all, and celebrated Juneteenth and addressed racism. This Sunday is Pride, so by the time you read this, I will have addressed LGBTQIA+ concerns.

For July I want to address patriotism and Christian Nationalism, the errant notion that America was, is and always should be Christian (whatever that means) and peoples of other faiths should become second class citizens if not deported. I want to talk about trauma and the psychic numbing I mentioned in last month's newsletter.

I think we need to address the intersection of religion and politics, even while we support the separation of Church and State, this latter notion being under attack by Christian Nationalists.

And then, I want to finally talk about why people become who they become, why they say and do what they say and do. And why other people look astounded when someone else's worldview doesn't fit with theirs. I think complexity thinking and intersectionality will help us understand what's going on.

(Continued on page 2)



*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.*



Pastor's Message continued from page 1

I believe it was Fr Daniel Berrigan who once said, “If you want to follow Jesus into the public square, you had better make sure you look good on wood.” Because the powers that be will crucify you. Speaking truth to power is always dangerous.

So, there you have it – my long view in these stormy seas. Somehow, somehow, we need to gather other than for worship and praise of a Sunday morning and talk about these things. What say ye?

Blessings,

Pr Keith



Celebrations - Blessings to All of You

Happy Birthday

July 1	Zella Zaffke
July 4	Landon Acosta
July 6	Patrick Riehle
July 7	Andrea Jans
July 7	Eileen Ward
July 9	Anna Sikkink
July 13	Ethan Pang
July 18	Jim Sondall
July 19	Eric Melin
July 21	Anna Hamaguchi
July 22	Sally Little
July 25	Sam Hamaguchi
July 28	Paul Herr
July 29	Connie Omo
July 29	Janet Riehle
July 29	Fia Rosetter
July 31	Ele Clere

Baptismal Anniversaries

July 3	Anne Myers
July 3	Hunter Spangler
July 12	Bill Little
July 16	Ethan Pang
July 27	Eileen Ward

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



Lutheranism 101



What is this "ism" named after some 500 year old German monk from backwater Wittenberg? What are the core teachings of our movement? What is the "means of grace"? What are sacraments? Why do we do what we do on Sunday mornings? Why do we talk the way we talk in the liturgy? What is lutefisk and why does it taste so bad? (In Pr Keith's inestimable opinion!)

If you would like to know more, or refresh what you once knew, or you just have questions, or if you want to take this as an adult step toward membership at CLC, let Pastor Keith know and we'll have some fun with "Lutheranism 101"!



Your Help is Needed!

We could use a few more Assisting Ministers/Lectors at both services. For the 11 am service you can be either in-person or online. For 8 am we need in-person AMs.

We have some great current AMs for whom we are deeply grateful, but we don't want to wear them out.

So if you are of a mind, or even mildly curious, let Pastor Keith know and he'll talk story with you about what being an Assisting Minister entails. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

If there is something other than AM-ing that you might prefer - like AV/IT, lawn-cutting on Saturday, set-up or clean-up, or playing a musical instrument in worship, let Pastor Keith know about that as well. We welcome anyone who wants to help the CLC `ohana.



Church Council Wrap Up

The Church Council met on June 26. Here is a summary of that meeting:


- ◆ It was decided to do a fence-staining event on a Saturday in August. Volunteers will be needed and welcome.
- ◆ Pastor announced that we will be trying out a new communion setting in August and we are working on expanding our hymn repertoire.
- ◆ We have agreed to host the Hukilau assembly in September and new Bishop David Nagler will be in attendance.
- ◆ A discussion was held on whether CLC should register as a congregation for the Pride March in October.
- ◆ Another discussion was regarding looking into refurbishing the gazebo for use as an outdoor meeting space.
- ◆ Dispersal of old designated fund balances as detailed by the administrator was approved.
- ◆ With the approval of vaccines for more keiki, there is interest in starting some sort of keiki/youth program.



The next Church Council meeting will be on Sunday, July 24, at 1:30 pm.

JULY, 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8 am In-person Worship 11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation	4 Independence Day 	5	6	7	8	9
10 8 am In-person Worship 11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation		12	13	14	15	16
17 8 am In-person Worship 11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation	18	19	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23
24 8 am In-person Worship 11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation 1:30 pm Church Council mtg	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 8 am In-person Worship 11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation						Aug 6 IHS Ministry

IHS Ministry



Our next ministry date is Saturday, August 6. You can sign up to help with serving the meal or donating cookies at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F4EA9AA28A5FE3-clcaugust1> or contact Amanda Spangler at 808-7258-9156. The photos are from some of our past ministry dates.



We're In The News!

The June 22nd issue of the Central O`ahu Voice (part of the Star Advertiser *MidWeek*) included the a photo (below left) from the



Aloha Agape Community Garden 1st Anniversary celebration.

The other 3 photos were taken by Pua Good and are examples of what is being grown and the photo to the right shows Anya Nebl harvesting sweet potatoes which were then delivered

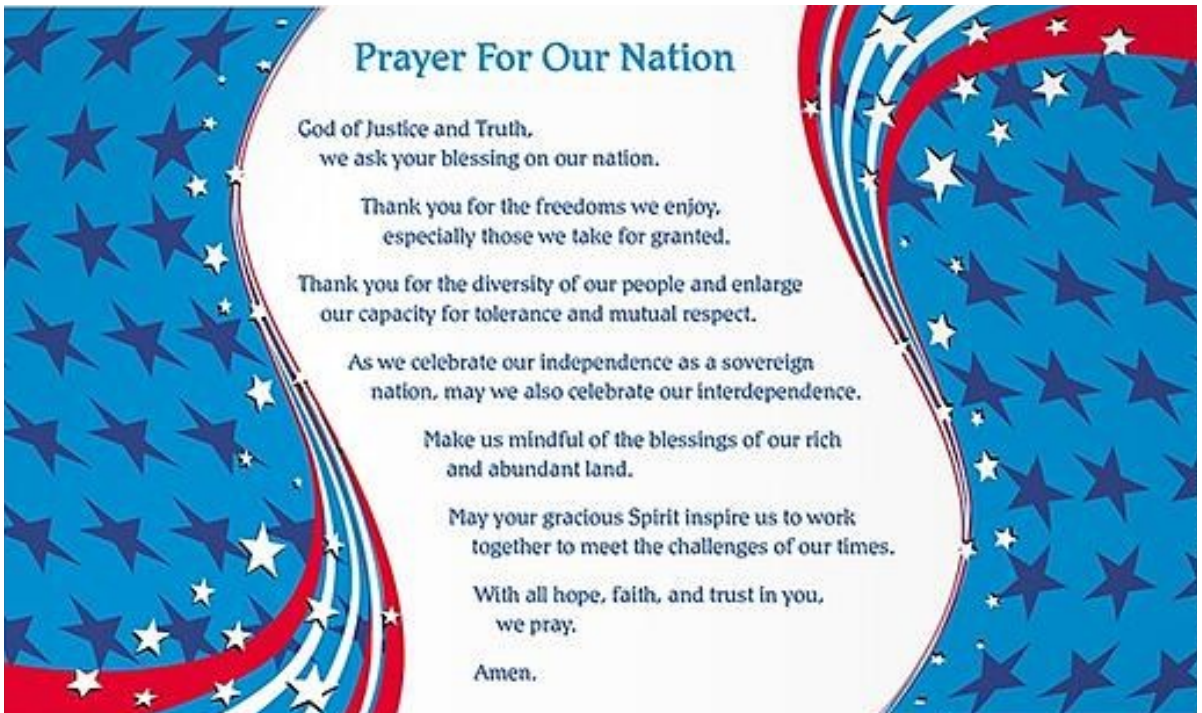


to IHS on Jun 4.

Garden up-date: there are still several plots available. The cost is \$60 per year. Please let Pastor Keith or Anya Nebl or the church office know if you are interested in obtaining one.



A Prayer for Independence Day



Prayer For Our Nation

God of Justice and Truth,
we ask your blessing on our nation.

Thank you for the freedoms we enjoy,
especially those we take for granted.

Thank you for the diversity of our people and enlarge
our capacity for tolerance and mutual respect.

As we celebrate our independence as a sovereign
nation, may we also celebrate our interdependence.

Make us mindful of the blessings of our rich
and abundant land.

May your gracious Spirit inspire us to work
together to meet the challenges of our times.

With all hope, faith, and trust in you,
we pray.

Amen.



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**WISHING YOU A
HAPPY AND BLESSED**

Independence Day!



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