

August 2016

Together We Are The Church



Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

August 2016

Aloha Kakou,

As we move into August – and further into Ordinary Time, the “green” season of the Church, I want to remind everyone that this is a time for worship, prayer, and reflection. Gospel readings in particular focus more on the teachings of Jesus than the story of his life, ministry and death. The first and second readings in worship often provide background or elaboration on the Gospel theme for that particular Sunday “...after Pentecost.”

What are some of the things I am praying and reflecting upon as I/we worship? First and foremost, the unconditional love of God in Christ, that not even death can destroy - A love that will not let us go.

Second, how to convey that grace to others around us? What message do we send in what we say, do and think as a congregation and as persons who congregate?

Third, where these somewhat abstract notions become particular – what does our collective worship, our Sunday School, and even our administrative leadership say about what we believe and do? Looking ahead, what place might adult education, youth ministry, stewardship, small groups – “house churches,” for instance, have in our messaging, the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Just a few thoughts running through my head and heart as I ponder what comes next in the life of Christ Lutheran Church.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Keith".

Pr Keith

What it means to be Lutheran?



In her July column for Living Lutheran, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton notes that the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 may have the media knocking on our doors, asking us to explain ourselves. What will we say? She reminds us that our understanding of the gospel is what makes us distinctive.

Lutherans don't often garner much media attention. In this country we don't make up a big segment of the population. When groups of Lutherans began arriving on these shores in the 18th and 19th centuries, they tended to stay in their nationality and language groups and didn't assimilate completely into the surrounding culture. We kept to ourselves and so went relatively unnoticed. Lutherans, with some exceptions, weren't part of the political or economic elite. There are both benefits and problems because of this. More later.

Our state of relative obscurity is about to change. In 16 months we'll mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. For a brief time a spotlight will be turned on Lutherans in this country and around the world. Documentaries will be produced and aired, seminars will be held and, particularly if Oct. 31, 2017, is a slow news day, the media is going to seek us out and ask us to explain ourselves. When the local newspaper, radio or TV station comes knocking on our door, what are we going to say?

[In our churchwide conversation about priorities for the ELCA](#), we have been asking what it means to be Lutheran. We aren't as good as we could be about giving a clear answer to that question. We speak about grace, about our work in advocacy, about the relief and development work we do, about our inclusiveness and diversity—though I believe these last two are more aspirational than actual—about our ecumenical and interreligious dialogues and relationships. These are true and beautiful and important. They are not exclusively Lutheran.

Many religious and secular organizations are deeply committed to serving the vulnerable and working for justice and peace. The ELCA couldn't engage in ecumenical and interreligious partnerships if there were no ecumenical or interreligious partners. What is distinctive about us then?

When trying to define Lutheran identity we sometimes default to cultural types—northern and central European heritage, a certain kind of hymnody, even standard entrees at church dinners. I'm not dismissing the faithful witness of the millions of Lutheran immigrants who left Europe to start a new life on this continent. They built churches and hospitals and universities. They cared for the poor, the widow and the orphan.

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What it means to be Lutheran?

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They also lived in close-knit ethnic communities that, at first, helped maintain the Lutheran confessional movement. That is the benefit I noted above. The problem is that the Lutheran movement in this country has become overidentified with a particular cultural expression. If we manage to not describe ourselves by a particular culture, we have the tendency of describing Lutheranism as a set of behaviors—we are inclusive, we work for justice, we stand with the vulnerable, we are an inviting church. Please, God, let it be so.

But the danger is we can slip into what scholasticism called “fides formata.” Today we might say faith formation: not in the sense of a living faith that has first been given as a gift, but that correct action leads to faith. Either of these expressions—cultural or behavioral—can result in what Martha Stortz, a professor at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, calls the “presumptive we” that leads to the “othering you.” Those in the majority assume their experience is universal and those outside of that experience aren’t fully part of the tradition.

Neither culture nor behavior define what is distinctive about the Lutheran movement. It’s our understanding of the gospel. The gospel word creates faith. The gospel word is judgment and promise. Faith created by this gospel word sets people free to serve the neighbor. The church’s proper work is to proclaim the gospel word. You know, in the end, it’s all about God’s fierce and tender love that drives us to the cross, and there, at the very point of death, gives us life. The world deserves to hear the gospel—when the spotlight is on us, and when it is not.

Bishop Eaton



FREE PIANO FOR YOUR TAKING

Have we got a deal for you! Yes, we’re giving it away. Check out this free Yamaha piano located in the fellowship hall. First come, first take.

Call 808-623-9229

Just need your smile :)

A **Greeter** welcomes members and guests of Christ Lutheran Church in a cheerful manner filled with the aloha spirit. Greeting begins 15 minutes prior to the start of the church service.

What does an Usher do anyway?

Ushers distribute church bulletins, record attendance count, collect the offering, and direct people to the altar area for communion. Easy Cheesy!

Run the Big Screen for Jesus-

Members of the **Sound System** team utilize their computer skills to operate the audio/visual presentation of the worship service.

Adults can be Acolytes too.

The acolyte is responsible for lighting & extinguishing the candles, carrying the cross, distributing the offering bowls, and assisting with Holy Communion and Baptisms.

Like to work behind the scenes?

Join the **Altar Guild** Team. Monthly teams share responsibilities for the preparation of the Sacraments and the care of the altar.

Don't be shy, become a Reader!

From the lectern, the reader imparts God's word from the bible to the congregation by reading the scripture lessons of the day.

If numbers are your thing -

Join or **Tellers**. A teller tabulates the weekly offering and makes the bank deposit. Tellers serve on two person teams which work on a monthly rotational basis.

Let's Get Physical!

The church doesn't open & close itself. We need willing bodies for **Set-up & Clean-up**. Each group consists of at least two people who share various duties such as opening the sanctuary, moving various tables into position, making coffee, setting out refreshments, sweeping the grounds, dusting, vacuuming, taking out the trash, kitchen clean-up, wiping down tables, locking up, etc.

If you'd like to volunteer in our worship hui, please let us know.



Livestream the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Aug. 8-13

The 14th ELCA Churchwide Assembly will convene on Aug. 8-13, in New Orleans to discuss and make decisions about how to go about God's work as a church. This year the assembly will observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation under the theme "Freed and Renewed in Christ" and the accompanying tagline "500 years of God's Grace in Action."

Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- hear reports and review the work of churchwide organization officers, leaders and units;
- receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies;
- elect a new ELCA vice president, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws;
- establish ELCA policy;
- worship together;
- adopt a budget; and
- conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.



The assembly will be streamed live on the churchwide assembly website. To learn about the assembly, preview the pre-assembly reports or to watch the livestream, go to <http://www.elca.org/ChurchwideAssembly> or contact Karen Lathrop at klathroo130@gmail.com for more information.

One Pot One Hope

One Pot One Hope is held each last Saturday of the month at Maluhia Lutheran Church, 85-256 Farrington Hwy, Waianae, starting at 10AM.

Need:

Volunteers, Cans of Chili (large), Granola Bars, Peanut Butter, Jelly/Jam, Bottled Water, Paper Bags, & Cardboard Boxes (large).

Please let Rev. Steve Brauner [\(808\) 280-7312](tel:8082807312) know if you are bringing any items.

It is a blessing to share in this important ministry. Mahalo!



Join the new ELCA Federal Credit Union!

The ELCA Federal Credit Union is open for business and accepting applications for membership.

To apply, visit the credit union website, elcafcu.org. ELCA members, congregations and ministries—and their employees—are eligible to join. You can become a member by opening a savings account with as little as a \$25 initial deposit. Credit union membership is your entrée to access a portfolio of deposit accounts, loans and other services. At the credit union's website, you can view current rates, apply for a loan, and learn more from an interactive loan payment calculator. You can also search for the closest ATM on the credit union's worldwide network of free ATMs. Also, watch for a mobile app coming soon.

As the credit union website states: "When you join fellow Lutherans as a member of the ELCA Federal Credit Union, you do more than gain access to a wide array of financial services. You become a part of a financial cooperative that shares your values."

The ELCA Federal Credit Union looks forward to serving you.

THE NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

Please submit newsletter articles by 9:00 a.m. on the 28th day of each month except February which is the 25th.

Gluten Free Communion Wafers

We now have gluten free communion wafers available upon request. Please check with the pastor before the service or simply ask for during the distribution.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 I.H.S. Day-Serving the homeless
7 10:45am Communion Worship 2pm PMT Meeting @ Menchies	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 10:45am Healing Service	15	16	17	18 7pm Council Meeting	19	20
21 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 10:45am Communion Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27 10am OPOH
28 10:45am Communion Worship Newsletter Deadline	29	30	31			





Join the PBJ's Puppet Ministry Team

Reach-in, Teach-in, Preach-in Hands!

Open to all entering 5th grade thru adult. Join the fun, something for everyone! We need puppeteers, stage hands, prop makers, costume designers, drivers, video tech., music choreographer, booking agent, and a fundraising human. No experience required, just a willingness to have lots of fun sharing God's love through puppetry. Performances for the church & in the community. Rehearsals on Sundays mornings. Contact Collette Wiedemann, 623-9229, office@clcmililani.org for more information or come to our **first meeting of the season on Sunday August 7 at Menchie's Yogurt in Mililani Town Center at 2:00 p.m.**



*The Yanagida family - Alana, John, Jane, & Lisa
- celebrating John & Jane's retirement*

Happy Birthday

01 Lizzy Gustafson
03 Alex Gustafson
05 Jacob Weinhardt
06 Anne Myers
06 Maddyn Robinson-Sato
07 Michael Walley
09 Beverly Murphy
11 Alena Walley
11 Benjamin Walley
16 Scott Copeland
17 Rene Chinen
22 Keegan Salboro
23 Stephen Alcorn
23 Tom Ward
23 Joe Murphy
24 Andy Sikkink

Anniversaries



Baptismal Anniversaries

01 Connie Omo
11 Logan Riehle
11 Trenton Riehle
23 Hannah Lanas
23 Heidi Lanas
24 Sabrina Gustafson

Wedding Anniversaries

03 Bill & Marion Thompson
08 Nancy & Tri Pham
17 Dan & Karen Nelson
23 Bill Belcher & Linda Kohlstaedt

A hui hou

*In July we gave Godspeed to Rich & Sarah Salboro,
and Brooke Bailey who moved to Oregon.
They will be missed!*



Please pray for Rose Marie



If you are shopping on Amazon why not support CLC

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

Sunday School Is Cool!

Teach a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Prov. 22:6



What better way to do this than join our Sunday School team as a teacher? Share your love of Christ with our keiki. No experience is necessary, curriculum can be provided. It takes a small amount of planning time during the week, and one hour on Sunday morning. PreK through 4th grades are needed. If you'd rather sub or teach part time, that can be workable too. Please contact Pastor Keith or the church office if you are interested.



Baptism of
Kaimana Higa
May 1, 2016

*Jesus said, I am
the light of the
world.
Whoever follows
me
will have the light
of life.*

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is September 11

This year we at CLC will be saying Thank You to our community's First Responders by providing lunch for the Police, Fire, and EMT personnel who serve the Mililani area (and our military community at Schofield-Wheeler). We'll serve the meal at CLC right after worship, and also plan to deliver meals to the HPD, HFD, and EMT stations, if they cannot take time off to come to us.

Everyone can be involved! Help donate, prepare, serve, bag, deliver the food. Keiki (and everyone) can make "Thank You" cards to give out along with each meal. Set-up, clean-up, etc.

Menu format will most likely be "IHS-style" chicken, rice, cole slaw or salad , cookies/ desserts, bottled water.

Mahalo to Worship & Music for brainstorming, to Becky G. and Chaplain Joanna for offering to contact the responders stations, and for Jane Y. for helping coordinate the food prep.

Sign up on the clipboard (available soon). In the meantime, talk with any of us with your ideas and offers to serve.

Mahalo,

Eileen Ward, outreach chair





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



Summer Worship

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

Ladies bible studies - 3rd Sundays
@ 9:30 a.m.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

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