



Together We Are The Church

August, 2023

Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

August, 2023

Aloha Kakou,

Again, as I have said on several occasions this past month, Mahalo nui loa for your kind words of condolence, your cards, your emails, and your memorials. At the death of my sister, Paula.

As I get back home, to faith family and friends, I am pondering what I see around us. We are challenged on so many fronts – with family, with vocation, with education, with climate change, with politico-religious fanaticism, with faith, and with freedom. It can be exhausting. Many of you have expressed your worries to me.

I sometimes take issue – at least in my mind – with how our ELCA challenges us to follow Jesus by loving our neighbor, especially those most marginalized and in need., but with hardly a word about how we can care for ourselves and each other... so that we might love our neighbors in need.

I am more and more thinking that my primary pastoral work is to care for you, not call you to action, but rather to love you right where you are at, with all your cares, concerns, anxieties, and questions. How can we love others if we are not sure that we are loved?

We can often use self-care as an excuse to not love those neighbors who are different from us, but more and more in this uncertain universe, I am thinking that the primary work of a pastor, and of worship on Sunday morning, is to remind you that you are loved unconditionally by God. Christ died in love for you. Jesus cares for you. The Spirit is here in our midst to create faith and offer support when we are groaning with the burdens of our day-to-day lives.

The great philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard once said, “You cannot move from the spot until you learn to move at the spot.” I think he was spot on with that paradox. You are loved on the spot.

So, let me finish this missive by reminding you that you are loved just as you are. Period. End of discussion. Let the paradox begin!

Much love,

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.*



**Give Aloha Returns
September 1**

CLC organization
code: 77769

Once again CLC is registered to participate in the annual
Give Aloha program, sponsored by Foodland/Western Union.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Celebrations - Blessings to All of You

Happy Birthday

August 6	Anne Myers Maddyn Robinson-Sato Phionah Spangler
August 8	A.J. Striffler
August 9	Bev Murphy
August 13	Benjamin Hamaguchi
August 14	Jana Norton
August 15	Collette Wiedemann Levi Vonberg
August 22	Jia Spangler
August 23	Joe Murphy
August 24	Andy Sikkink

Baptismal Anniversaries

August 1	Connie Omo
August 4	Logan Stanford
August 11	Logan Riehle Trenton Riehle
August 25	Dale Koenig

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



IHS Ministry



The Institute for Human Services
Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

Our next ministry date is **Saturday, August 5th**. You can sign up to help with serving the meal or donating cookies at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4ea9aa28a5fe3-clcaugust2#/> or contact Jefery Spangler at 808-728-9144.

Mililani Christmas Parade Call for Volunteers!



first..... we need donations of balls of yarn! Christmas colors are great. We also accept other colors too!

And we need persons to make lei!! In past years, we've made over 1500, and we still run out. How many can we make this year?

Additional volunteers are needed for.....

- *Persons to Decorate the truck the day before the parade.
- *One Truck to be driven in the parade.
- *One Driver
- *One Person in passenger's seat to hand distributors more lei when they run out.
- *6-8 Persons to hand out lei.

Let Linda Santos or Eileen Ward know if you can volunteer for any of the above. If you're making lei, let us know how many, so we can have enough tags made.



Sunday Brunch

The next **Sunday Brunch** will take place on **Sunday, August 20th** between services (approximately 9:15-

9:45am). Bring whatever you'd like to share or just bring your appetite. All are welcome to this monthly time of fellowship and fun.



AUGUST, 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Not a CLC Event: Please contact Al Anon or AA for further information.</i>						
<i>*Not a CLC Event: Contact Leeward Dog Training for more information.</i>		1 Morning Prayer	2 Morning Prayer	3 Morning Prayer	4 Morning Prayer *Al-Anon 7:30 pm *AA 7:30pm	5 Morning Prayer IHS Ministry
6 10th Sun after Pentecost 8 am In-person Worship 10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation	7 Morning Prayer	8 Morning Prayer	9 Morning Prayer	10 Morning Prayer	11 Morning Prayer *Al-Anon 7:30 pm *AA 7:30pm	12 Morning Prayer 8am-12pm Dog Training registration
13 11th Sun after Pentecost **Healing Sunday 8 am In-person Worship 10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation	14 Morning Prayer	15 Morning Prayer	16 Morning Prayer	17 Morning Prayer	18 Morning Prayer Office Closed Holiday *Al-Anon 7:30 pm * AA 7:30pm	19 Morning Prayer 8am-12pm Dog Training registration
20 12th Sun after Pentecost 8 am In-person Worship 9:15am Sunday Brunch 10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation	21 Morning Prayer	22 Morning Prayer	23 Morning Prayer	24 Morning Prayer	25 Morning Prayer *Al-Anon 7:30 pm * AA 7:30pm	26 Morning Prayer
27 13th Sun after Pentecost 8 am In-person Worship 10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation 11:30am Chrch.Cncl.Mtg	28 Morning Prayer	29 Morning Prayer	30 Morning Prayer	31 Morning Prayer		

CLC T-Shirts



At the end of last year, we offered CLC T-shirts for sale. The vendor we were dealing with required a minimum number which we did not reach. Now we have found a different vendor who has offered us a “deal.” The cost is \$20 for cotton short sleeve shirts or \$23 for dri fit with no minimum. If you are interested in purchasing one or more, please contact Carrie Nelson (crbohn4444@gmail.com), Andrea Jans (andrewa@jans.org), or the church office.

Those who have already paid for the previous shirt, please let us know if you are still interested. Any overpayment will be refunded to you.

Who is a "real" American? - Living Lutheran



Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

My husband and I live in Skokie, Ill., a diverse community. Our neighbors to the west are an octogenarian Taiwanese Evangelical couple who regularly order meals from Kosher to Go. Our neighbors to the east are a Ukrainian and Russian multigenerational family. Our grocery stores have both kosher and halal departments. As I drive past the elementary school on my way to work, I see moms and dads in jeans along with women in saris or hijabs and men in thobes or yarmulkes. More than 90 languages are spoken in the homes of our school district. We pay our taxes, mow our (tiny) lawns, worship, raise our children and pretty much get along in our little village of Skokie.

Late one afternoon a few years ago I was finishing up yard work. I had been weeding and trimming all day. I was tired and grass-stained. Just one more pile of leaves needed to be swept up. I noticed a woman walking toward me so I hurried to get the sidewalk cleared. She stopped and told me that she had seen me working all day and thought I might be too tired to prepare supper. She had made a meal for me and my husband.

It was during Ramadan—the month when Muslims fast from food and water during the day and engage in prayer and acts of charity. This was her act of charity and generosity. She smiled and walked away. I was stunned.

There has been an alarming rise in hate speech and violence against religious and ethnic minorities in this country. At the same time, we've seen an increased polarization among us, even in our dear church. There is a movement to define what it means to be a "real American." Some would define this as white, Christian and native born. When Lutheran immigrants first came to this country in the 18th and 19th centuries, they weren't considered real Americans. They didn't speak English or fit in with the Deist, Calvinist religious majority. They were "other" and therefore suspect. German Lutheran immigrants weren't considered white when they settled here. Neither were Irish, Italians or Poles. Catholics and Jews were considered an alien threat.

An element in our country wants to legislate that the United States is a Christian nation where Christianity should be privileged and only Christians should hold office. This is Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic

It's ironic that the Puritans fled religious persecution and that the First Amendment states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free expression thereof," yet an element in our country wants to legislate that the United States is a Christian nation where Christianity should be privileged and only Christians should hold office. This is Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic. There is no doubt that the Founders were Christian and that a majority of Americans identify as Christian. That is different from declaring Christianity as the established religion of the United States. And, dear church, let's be clear, a Christian Nationalist does not define Lutherans as "Christian."

God knows I love my country. This beautiful, fragile, yet surprisingly resilient experiment in democracy and nationhood that's not predicated on shared ethnicity is unique among nations. My grandfather, father and uncles all served during World War I and World War II. I had the honor of placing a wreath on behalf of the ELCA at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. I won't have my patriotism questioned. Christian Nationalism is a perversion of the gospel and a threat to our democracy. It's precisely because I love my country that I warn against it.

Who is a "real American"? I say that my Muslim neighbor walking freely down the street in a hijab to offer a meal to her Christian neighbor during Ramadan is a real American. Motivated by her Muslim faith she acted as neighbor to me. She is not less American because she is Muslim. Because she is an American, she can be her authentic self and participate in building our community and country. What binds us together is not ethnicity but shared participation in our civic life springing out of our cultural heritages and working for the common good.



Christ Lutheran Church
95-1361 Meheula Parkway
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August Worship



Sunday Worship 8 am and 10 am

Masks not required
but encouraged

The 8 am service is offered on
Facebook and the 10 am
service is offered on Zoom.

Both feature
on-line Communion.

The Liturgy of Healing is
included in each service on the 2nd
Sunday of the month.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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