

July 2020

Together We Are The Church

## Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

Aloha Kakou,

I've been reading over the last few months of my newsletter articles. Wow, what a shift in tone, certainty and worldview. In February (which was written at the end of January) I was anticipating my ear surgery and then, kicking into high gear at CLC for Lent, Easter and most of 2020. In March I mentioned the novel coronavirus as one among many challenges we might be facing on the local as well as global/national level.

With April came the big “wowzah!” – the shelter at home orders, the economic crash, and the stunning sense of uncertainty that ensued. More of the same in both the May and June articles, with notes about shifts in worship to online and questions of how we might at some point in the (distant?) future return to in-person worship.

Now, it is July 1<sup>st</sup> and I am recovering (finally!) from having my tumor removed last Wednesday. Thankful to God, the surgical team, and all of you for being with me in thought and prayer (and food) during an exceptionally strange time for such a medical procedure. The hospital was better protected than Fort Knox. The infection control was meticulous and the surgical team was well-prepared. And I had not one but two ear surgeons. I awoke with little fanfare and by the time I was home, it felt like just a long day at work rather than major surgery.

And one other thing I noticed in the newsletters ... I kept saying in one way, flourish, or form that God in Christ through the Holy Spirit is with us, abides with us, sustains us, loves us. Even – especially! – when we wonder where God is. God is present among us in God's (seeming) absence. That is the paradox and wonder of the Cross. If you pause and worry about what this is all about, where we are all headed, look back at my newsletter articles. God is here and all shall be well, all shall be well.

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.*



## **A Clean and Safe Space**

In anticipation of returning to in-person worship, the entire church was cleaned and disinfected on Thursday, July 2. Platforms were moved, beams were dusted, chairs were disinfected and then moved outside while the interior was cleaned, gecko droppings (and a BIG toad) were removed. Every inch was made safe for our return to worshipping together. On pages 6 and 7 are photos of the sparkling results.

## **God of life -**

*Show redemption to all who watch  
and wait with eager expectation:  
those longing for wars to cease,  
those waiting for immigration  
paperwork to finalize, those seeking  
election, and those in dire need of  
humanitarian relief especially those  
afflicted socially, physically,  
emotionally and mentally by the  
coronavirus. Come quickly with your  
hope. Amen*

## ***Returning to In-Person Worship***

Aloha Siblings in Christ,

Allow me to update you on our return to in-person worship here at Christ Lutheran Church. This coming Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> I will be at the CLC campus at 7am, 9am, and 11am. Maybe even 4pm if anyone indicates they'd like to meet then. If anyone shows up, we'll safely gather, greet, pray, read and reflect upon God's Word, and pray a bit more. Kind of like what we did on Wednesday-night Lenten Soup Suppers of years past, back in the Olden Days of 2015-2019. Only without the soup. No food or drink allowed.

First and foremost, we are proceeding with an abundance of caution. The novel coronavirus continues to rage where people do not wear masks and refuse to maintain a safe physical distance. We have no intention of becoming one of those pandemic hot-spot churches who magically think that Jesus will protect them, even if they don't wear masks or wash their hands, cough and sneeze all over everyone and don't physically keep "safe" distances. Such an attitude is not a mark of faith but of sin, especially the sin of not listening to the best science and public health experts, true saints from God, keeping us safe.

We have acquired masks, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer. We are flinging wide not just our doors but also our walls. Our worship will be as much outdoors and breezy as indoors and stagnant. We have hired a professional cleaning company to deep-clean the sanctuary from top to bottom, and even under the pallets and up on the beams.

Every other row of chairs will be stacked away, so that we will have at least seven to eight feet of space between rows. Green-covered chairs will be strategically spaced and verboten to sit upon, further increasing our physical distance. Masks are mandatory.

For the first few Sundays, there will be no sung music. And when there is, you may only hum, with lips sealed, under your mask.

In this we will be following the best practices recommended by public health guidelines: masks mandatory, hand-washing encouraged before, during and after worship, physical distance of at least six feet between persons who are not members of the same household, meet only in open-air gatherings, and those gatherings must be fewer than twenty-five and preferably fewer than ten.

If you are kupuna/elderly, medically fragile, a family with young children (including pregnant ones) and/or are anxious about meeting for worship, feel free not to come. In fact, many of you have already informed me of your decisions in personal conversation and I fully support you in staying away.

I am not at all worried about numbers. Jesus says, "Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I am, also." Matthew 18:20 The founding document of the Lutheran movement, The Augsburg

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Anniversaries



(Continued from page 3)

Confession of 1530, in Article VII, The Church, says wherever the Gospel is spoken and the sacraments enacted, there is Church, there is Holy Spirit, there is Jesus. By my reckoning we only need two or three gathered to speak Gospel and do sacraments. So a small group of two, three, four or five is fine by me.

And in spite of all our precautions, as pastor I reserve the right to bring everything to a screeching halt thirty seconds before it begins if I deem the situation to be too high risk or dangerous. Okay, ten seconds.

I am pondering the irony of this letter. While inviting y'all to return to in-person worship, I'm telling y'all to stay home. Much of what many of you love, the singing, the exchange of peace, the Lord's Supper, and the talk-story before, during, and after is absent. So, why bother? What's the point?

Because as social creatures of God, living in incarnate relationship, we gather around divine Word and baptismal faith: confession and forgiveness, prayer, praise, and spiritual reflection upon the Word of God.

We can do that online but it's not quite the same. Not like being in the same open-air space, not like seeing each others' (masked!) faces, as we can at our church campus.

Still, remember, we are also still Zooming through all of this – this Sunday at a new time: 11am. Later we will post to YouTube and Sound Cloud, and from there, share to FaceBook. No shame, no blame in staying home.

Blessings to all of you. You are daily in my prayers. If you have any further questions or concerns, you know how to find me.

In Christ,

Pr Keith

## Happy Birthday

01 Zella Zaffke  
05 Landon Acosta  
07 Andrea Jans  
07 Eileen Ward  
09 Anna Sikkink  
13 Ethan Pan  
18 Jim Sondall  
19 Eric Melin  
21 Anna Hamaguchi  
22 Sally Little  
25 Sam Hamaguchi  
28 Paul Herr  
29 Janet Riehle  
29 Fia Rosetter  
31 Ele Clere

## Baptismal Anniversaries

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

# JULY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>
5 <i>7 am In-person Worship</i> <i>9 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship &amp; by Zoom invitation</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>7 am In-person Worship</i> <i>9 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship &amp; by Zoom invitation</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <i>7 am In-person Worship</i> <i>9 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship &amp; by Zoom invitation</i> <i>1pm Council Meeting on Zoom</i>	20	21	22	23	24 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	25
26 <i>7 am In-person Worship</i> <i>9 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship &amp; by Zoom invitation</i>	27	28	29	30	31	



*Has it ever been this clean?*









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### **July Worship**

Beginning July 5 we will offer in-person worship at 7 am, 9 am, and 11 am (and at 4 pm if there is enough interest). In addition, the 11 am service will be offered on Zoom. You may also later view and hear the worship service at CLCMililani on our YouTube channel, Facebook, and SoundCloud.

## **CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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