



Together We Are The Church

December 2020

Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

December 2020

Aloha Kakou,

As I write this, Thanksgiving Day has passed and Advent/Christmas Seasons are upon us. Already, even more so than before, people have been confiding in me regarding their difficult feelings about this (supposedly) Hap-Hap-Happiest Time of the Year:

It's the most wonderful time of the year
With the kids jingle belling
And everyone telling you be of good cheer
It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Yeah, right. Mahalo, Andy Williams.

Those feelings can include grief, loss, sadness, depression, anxiety, panic, and a general melancholia. They often tend to intensify during holidays when you are expected to be happy and gay. And that's just the problem – how can I be happy and gay when that is what I can't seem to conjure up? In our cheery, cheesy, officially optimistic culture, how do I get by, especially in a pandemic? How do we cope when we seem to have no language to even express how we feel? Well, no language that is officially accepted.

It's time again for a Blue Christmas at Christ Lutheran Church. No, not the Elvis Presley song but the Christian liturgy of hope in the midst of despair, of a little light in the middle of a great big darkness, of a little, bitty baby, vulnerable and at-risk in a world of whooping, hollering, and screaming.

So, on Sunday, December 20th at 7:00 pm here at Christ Lutheran Church, we will gather quietly, pray and reflect, listen to scripture and hum softly. We will use the liturgy of healing. We will light candles to console us in the great big dark (just a few – enough to find our way around). We won't be Zooming this, either. Confidentiality is more important.

Maybe that will get us through. I invite you to join us. If you would like to know more – or just chat with the pastor, feel free to contact me.

A blessed Advent to you all!

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.*



Celebrations - Blessings to All of You

Happy Birthday

- 03 Bill Kriese
- 09 Jiao Chen
- 09 Russ Kino
- 09 Keith Wolter
- 20 Mitzi Ludwig
- 20 Christy Sondall
- 28 David Sikkink
- 30 Kaimana Higa

*And to Lori Firth and Sherri
Uecke whom we missed in
November*



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

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 01 Andrew Zaffke
- 03 Anna Sikkink
- 07 Mary Lou Kimoto
- 09 Jiao Chen
- 11 Jim Sondall
- 28 Mattie Sikkink
- 30 Keith Wolter

Wedding Anniversaries

- 01 Rick & Anne Myers
- 13 Joel & Anna Hamaguchi
- 27 Bill & Gayle Kriese
- 30 John & Ele Clere
- 30 John & Jan Yanagida

Highlights from the November 15 Church Council Meeting



Highlights from the November 22 Congregation Meeting

- ◆ Noted that the Pacifica Synod has presented a Strategic Plan;
- ◆ Pr Keith is working on the Hawaii Biz Pivot Grant to purchase materials for the community garden;
- ◆ Pr Keith has been vlogging more, including returning to Wednesday Noon Responsive Prayer;
- ◆ By-Laws, sale of the organ, and Habilitat's Christmas Tree Sale on CLC property in early December was reviewed;
- ◆ The annual meeting's agenda was set;
- ◆ Council members agreed to remain on council, even with extended terms, for one more year, due to the pandemic;
- ◆ The 2021 budget was presented and accepted as a presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting in November;
- ◆ Synod Assembly delegates will be elected in January, once we are clear on how the Zoom Assembly in May will go;
- ◆ A Stewardship Letter will be sent out in December from pastor and council.

Next Council meeting: December 13 @ 2:30pm.



The meeting was conducted in-person and via Zoom

President Linda Santos gave a recount of the year, thanks many of those who helped, and offered words of encouragement and hope for 2021.

Treasurer Joel Hamaguchi reviewed the past year's financials, noting that we were running a surplus.

Pr Keith Wolter reflected upon the year past and had some thoughts for 2021, on worship, his ministry and especially seeking God's wisdom in Christ in a difficult year.

The Church Council was re-elected for 2021:

- Linda Santos, President
- Bud Jenkins, Vice President
- Joel Hamaguchi, Treasurer
- Kathy Jans, Secretary
- Steve Peterson, at large
- Nelson Acosta, at large
- Bekki Zaffke, at large

If any others are interested in serving on the Church Council, they may contact any of the elected members and talk story regarding what it entails.

Treasurer Joel Hamaguchi presented the 2021 budget, which is essentially the same as 2020, due to uncertainty around the pandemic.

The budget will be approved (or not) at the January semi-annual congregational meeting.



Christmas Worship

There will be a **Blue Christmas service at 7 pm on Sunday, December 20.** It's time for a Blue Christmas at Christ Lutheran Church. No, not the Elvis Presley song but the Christian liturgy of hope in the midst of despair. We will gather quietly, pray and reflect, listen to scripture and hum softly. We will use the liturgy of healing.

For Christmas we will offer one **candlelight service on Christmas Eve, at 7 pm.** This will be a service of candle-lighting and carol-singing (and in-person humming!).

Additionally, we will offer a **Christmas Day service of Holy Communion at 10 am** for those who are unable or reluctant to join us on Christmas Eve. More carol humming/singing and time to be together when we cannot be with family.

Mahalo Nui Loa

To... **Emily Stanford** for her continued commitment to providing music to enhance our worship services.

To... **DeAnn Acosta** for organizing and heading up our participation in the PACT Angel Tree project (more info on page 6)

To... **all those** who brought food for our annual November Canned Food Drive for Private Sector Hawaii. Your generosity will touch many others with the love of Christ.

To... **all of you who contributed** to the Give Aloha program. We received \$932.06 in customer donations and \$208.85 in matching funds.

To... **the shoppers** who purchased items through Smile.Amazon.com. We received a donation of \$34.64 from Amazon for purchases made during the 3rd quarter.

A Note from Dick Crislip

"Thank you all for the many cards you sent me for my 75th birthday last month. I so appreciate your thinking of me with your prayers and kind thoughts.

I wish you all well and happy holidays!

Gratefully,
Dick Crislip"

DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
					3 pm Habilitat set-up	6 am Habilitat tree pick up IHS Serving Ministry
6 <i>8 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</i>	7	8	9	10	1	12
13 Healing Sunday <i>8 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</i> 2:30 pm Council Meeting on Zoom	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <i>8 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</i> <i>7 pm Blue Christmas svc (in-person only)</i>	21	22	23 News- letter Deadline	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 pm	25 Christmas Day Communion & Carols 10 am	26
27 <i>8 am In-person Worship</i> <i>11 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</i>	29	29	30	31 New Years Eve		



Christ Lutheran Church of Mililani Angel Tree



**Collecting 111 gifts for
children in our community**

PACT (Parents and Children Together) Organization

How Do I Participate?

Instead of individual angels on the tree at church, we wanted to create a safe way for you to participate. We created a virtual Angel tree. Click on the link below to sign up for a child(ren), whom you will purchase a **\$10.00 gift** for and return to the church by **December 13th**.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094AA4AA2BA2FD0-angel>

Do you Prefer to Purchase a Gift Online?

We recommend that you consider purchasing your gift online through Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com)-designate Christ Lutheran of Mililani and ship it directly to the church. Please use this address for shipping and make sure it arrives by December 11th.

**Christ Lutheran Church of Mililani
Attention: DeAnn Acosta/Angel Tree
95-1361 Meheula Pkwy, Mililani, HI 96789**

Would you Prefer to Donate Money and have Someone Else Shop?

If you would like to give a financial donation to purchase gifts for the children, please mail or drop off a check or send cash to the church with a memo stating it is for the Angel Tree. You may also submit your donation online through our **PayPal** or the **Tithe.ly App**. Or give the money to DeAnn or Mary Lou during services. DeAnn or another congregation member will shop for the gifts.

Invite Others to Participate

Since there are so many children in need, we encourage you to invite family, friends, and neighbors (both near and far to join us in supporting the Angel Tree Initiative. Share the link to the website so that others can share in our mission to share Christ's love.

How Do I Turn in My Gift Donation?

You may drop your gift at the church from **9 am-12 noon on Dec. 5-6 or on Dec.12-13** during the church services. Do not wrap. Place in a bag with your name and we will ensure the child's name tag is placed with your gift.

What kind of gifts should I purchase? Other questions?

Contact: DeAnn Acosta 808 371-7708 (cell/text) or email her at alohad50@hotmail.com

Giving Without Effort

You can help out Christ Lutheran Church in Mililani while you do your Christmas shopping. AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support CLC every time you shop, at no additional cost to you. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices and vast selections and AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to CLC. So, the next time you go shopping at Amazon, don't log in to Amazon.com but use the website below. Then a portion of your purchase will benefit CLC without you even trying.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/99-0226575>



The Power of Prayer

We have “resurrected” the CLC Prayer Chain. If you are in need of prayer, let the office know and we’ll send your requests to our prayer chain members. If you like to pray for others, please contact Pastor Keith about joining the group.

The Year End is Approaching

Thank you for your gifts and your dedication to Christ Lutheran Church during this very difficult year. As we approach the end of the calendar year, please note that all donations must be postmarked or received in the office by December 31 to be included in your 2020 contribution statement (for tax purposes). Thank you and God bless you for your generous support of CLC so that we may continue to be good stewards of what God has given to us. Please contact Carolyn in the church office (office@clmililani.org or 623-9229) if you have any questions.

Right & below: The results of our November canned food drive for Private Sector Hawaii.

Photos by Sena Norton





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



December Worship

Sunday worship - 8 am and 11 am

In addition, the 11 am service is offered on Zoom and Facebook with on-line Communion.

Sunday, 12/20/20 - 7 pm

Blue Christmas service
(in-person only)

Thursday, 12/24/20 - 7 pm

Christmas Eve candlelight service
with carols

Friday, 12/25/20 - 10 am

Christmas Day communion service
with carols

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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